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Give me your hand, lad, and tell me whether you have seen any thing of the Brigade? I'm afeard we're in a condemned diffikilty!"

NICK WHIFFLES' PET; OR, Ned Hazel, the Boy Trapper.

BY CAPT. J. F. C. ADAMS,

The Hunter-Author, and Nephew of the Celebrated Old Grizzly Adams, the Bear-Tamer of the Rocky Mountains.

CHAPTER I.

A "CONDEMNED DIFFIKILTY."

"HERE I am in a condemned diffikilty ag'in," muttered Nick Whiffles, as he seated himself on a broad, flat rock, on the bank of the Elk river, far up in Oregon, close to the boundary line between that then wild territory and British America.

The eccentric old trapper had spent many years in roaming through the vast solitudes of the North-west, sometimes in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company, and sometimes in the employ of the North-west Fur Company, but perhaps more frequently entirely alone. A man of his peculiar temperament and tastes was sure to be widely known, both at the far-scattered trading-posts and among the numerous trappers and hunters that wandered through that vast wilderness, which, at that

comparatively recent day, knew scarcely anything of the advantages of civilization.

As was the inevitable custom of Nick, when in a quandary, he relieved himself by self-communing.

"The Whiffles family was always noted for the way they had of getting into diffikilty. The first thing I remember was in getting spanked on account of some condemned diffikilty that I had got into with my mother, and the next thing was the measles and whooping-cough, and then when I got fairly over them and a dozen other diseases, our house took fire and burned down, and about the time the old gent got it rebuilt, it took fire and burned down ag'in. Wal, he didn't say nothin', but when the cabin went the third time, he got mad and said that thing was getting rather monotonous, and he would like, by way of variety, to see it shook down by an aith-

quake, or carried away by a harricane; but of course none of them things happened.

"Then, when the old gentleman took his last sleep, and they come to read his will, we found the lawyer had my name down wrong; instead of being Nick Whiffles. Ees, it was Old Nick, so I didn't get the bequest at all, but then, as everything else had been willed away already, I didn't lose much after all. My older brother got the house, but, afore he could move in it there came a big freshet that carried it down-stream, and that was the last of that.

"There was no end to my diffikilties. When I got to be a young man, I spent a whole summer's earnings in buying a suit of clothes. I had got to be a little tender on a cross-eyed girl that lived about a half-mile off, and, as soon as I could stow myself away in my new suit, I started out to see her. She gave me a hint that she wa'n't particlerly anxious,

as, when I went to go in the house, she set her dog on me, and the very first dash he made, he ripped out the whole seat of my pants and run away with it, so that there was no chance of putting the missing cloth back ag'in.

"Wal, Nick Whiffles has seen a good deal in the way of diffikilty since them days, but, somehow or other, the good Lord has brought me through all right, and, although I bear a good many scars, I'm yet sound in limb and wind, and able to eat my usual hunk of venison, foller the trail of an enemy, or run my eye along old Humbug here in a way that'll make her bite when she barks; and for all this I'm thankful."

The old trapper was silent a few moments, as if in a deep reverie. Near by his horse, known as Shagbark, was lazily cropping the grass in a way that showed he was in no fashishing condition, to say the least.

At the feet of Nick Whiffles flowed the Elk river, quiet and unruffled by the slightest ripple of wind. On the other side, and as far as the eye could reach, stretched the Oregon woods. There were woods on every hand, and far off in the distance could be seen the white peaks of the Rocky Mountains, their tops covered with the snows of centuries.

It was one vast solitude, such as it had stood at "creation's morn," and looking upon the figure of the trapper as he half-sat and half-reclined upon the stone, it would have been easy to imagine him some statue cut from the rock itself.

But, as Nick remarked, at the opening of our story, he was in a "condemned diffikilty"—nothing very serious, it is true, but enough to cause him some annoyance, and to occasion him considerable communing with himself.

Three days before he had crossed the line in-

to British America, and was making his way toward the Saskatchewan, when he turned out of his path, somewhat, to call at Fort Wilbur to see some of his old friends, when he learned that the brigade of the Oregon Department of the Hudson Bay Company was expected in within a week; it had divided up into several companies, and two of the canoes were on their way down the Elk river, for the purpose of bartering for a very valuable lot of furs and peltries that were known to be in the possession of a party of Blackfeet, whose village was on the northern bank of this stream. The traders expected to obtain Nick Whiffles to act as a sort of "go-between" in the business, as he stood on good terms with these treacherous people, and his universally known and respected probity could not fail to make him a valuable man to both parties in the business.

Nick had acted in this capacity before, so that when the wishes of the trappers were made known to him, he felt under a sort of obligation to accept, and he turned the head of his horse, Shagbark, toward the south, and, accompanied by his sagacious dog, Calamity, made the best possible time for Elk river again.

The particular "diffikilty" to which he referred was this: His cabin was about twenty miles away from where he now found him, and there he had left a young *protege* of his—a bright-eyed boy known as Ned Hazel, a sort of waif of the woods, that had come into his hands, in a singular manner, a number of years before, when he was little more than a mere child. It had been left at the "cottage," with the understanding that his adoptive "father" was not expected to return under three weeks, and now he was back again at the end of that number of days. He was anxious to take the little fellow on this short excursion, and had stopped at his house in the hope of finding him, but he was off on a hunt of his own, and Nick, not daring to wait, had hurried off for Elk river, where we now find him.

But where was the brigade? Above him or below him? That was the question for him to decide, and having no data by which to make his calculation, he set it down as a "condemned diffikilty."

He had sent Calamity a half-mile up the river to watch and to report to him the first appearance of the brigade, while he enjoyed the uncomfortable sensation of knowing that, as likely as not, the party for whom he was waiting might be drawing further away from him each moment.

"There's a company of them Nor'-westers somewhere in this neighborhood, and if they happen to run ag'in' the brigade, there'll be the condemned diffikilty ever heard tell on."

His horse had suddenly ceased eating, and, raising his head, with the grass unchewed in his mouth, gave a whinny, clearly indicating that some one or something was approaching.

"What is it?" asked Nick, instantly becoming all vigilance himself.

The horse held his head motionless for a moment, and then resumed his cropping the grass as unconsciously as before.

Nick Whiffles smiled.

"That means it's Calamity coming. You critters understand each other about as well as I understand you both."

The words were yet in his mouth, when the huge dog that had been the companion of Whiffles in so many exciting incidents of his life burst through the undergrowth and signified his pleasure by whining, wagging, and licking the hand of his master. The latter patted his head with no less delight.

"What is it, Calamity, for I know by your ways that there's something coming down the river? Is it the brigade or some other sort of animal?"

How, or by what means, Nick got at the meaning of the dog, it would be impossible for us, an "outsider," to say, but it required only a few moments for him to learn that it was not the brigade, but a single canoe descending the river.

"That much being sartin'," said Nick, "the diffikilty is as to *who* handles the paddle; like enough some murderous Blackfoot; but," he added, with some hesitation, as he narrowly scrutinized the actions of his dog, "the animal don't act in that way. He seems to have a better opinion of the chap than me."

As it was impossible to gather the full meaning of Calamity, Nick could only cast his eye up the river and wait for the mystery to solve itself.

He was not left long in waiting. Around the curve in the river, just above him, a small canoe suddenly shot to view, in which was seated a small boy, dressed as a hunter, and using the long ash paddle with no slight skill.

The eyes of Nick Whiffles sparkled as he recognized the lad, and he rose and waved his hand as a signal.

"Bless the soul of little Ned; his own father couldn't love him any more than I do." The water splashed and flashed in the sunlight, as the lad sent his little boat skimming over the surface of the river. A few moments only were needed for the prow of the canoe to strike the gravel at the feet of the hunter, who advanced to the water's edge to greet his pet.

"Give me your hand, lad, and tell me whether you have seen anything of the brigade."

"Nothing, uncle Nick."

"I was afraid you hadn't; then I'm afraid we're in a condemned diffikilty."

CHAPTER II. THE HUDSON BAY MEN.

An observer would not have failed to be struck with the contrast of appearance between Nick Whiffles and the boy with whom he was now conversing.

The hunter was bronzed, scarred and toughened by the torrid heat of summer and the Arctic coldness of the tempests that during the winter months sweep over the plains and mountains of the North-west. His face was shaggy with his untrimmed grizzled beard, and his hair, that escaped from beneath his coonskin cap, was silvered by the same hand that spares none of us. There was immense strength in those long, muscular limbs, and although Nick generally moved with a slow, shuffling gait, he was capable of astonishing quickness and celerity of movement when necessary.

Ned Hazel, as he was called, was about fifteen years of age, rather slight for that number of years, with eyes as bright, and cheeks as delicately ruddy, as if he had been born and reared in the palace of some noble in sunny France.

His movements were all grace, and underneath the delicacy of feature and color was the grand basis of rugged health that had already triumphed over obstacles under which many a man would have succumbed. There was no doubting that the deep affection of

Nick Whiffles was fully reciprocated by Ned, whose lustrous eyes glowed with a brighter light when he looked the grizzled old hunter in the face.

The boy began frolicking with the dog, while Nick turned his eyes up-stream, with an anxious expression of countenance that showed that his mental "diffikilty" was far from being purely imaginary. Suddenly he turned to Ned.

"Were ye looking for me, lad?"

"That was what brought me here."

"And what reason had you to think me here, when you see'd me start for Fort Wilbur?"

"Why, uncle Nick," replied Ned, pausing in his gambols with Calamity, "you hadn't been gone a half-day when I happened to think it was just the time last year when you went down the river with the brigade, and I knew you expected to do the same this spring; so I was sure you had forgot it. But you was so far away that there was no use in my trying to overtake you, and I thought perhaps you would think of it and come back yourself. Sure enough, when I came back, I found signs in the cabin that told me you had been there. I understood what it meant, so I made for the river, and jumping into the canoe, here I am."

"If I only knowed—Hark!" suddenly exclaimed Whiffles, his face lighting up, while he assumed an attitude of attention. "Did you hear nothing then, younker?"

"Yes; it is the brigade," replied Ned, also intently listening. "Yes; it's the brigade," he quickly added; "just hear them!"

Through the quiet air, mellowed and softened by the intervening distance, came the sound of male voices singing in time with the regular sweep of their paddles. There was a profundity of tone, and an impressive melody in the blending of the score and more of voices that struck the ears of both Nick and the boy.

"I've heard that same thing many a time before," muttered the hunter, more to himself than to his companion, "and it allers makes me feel all overish. Three years ago, when I was on the Saskatchewan, I was asleep one night, in my canoe, when I awoke and heard the brigade about a mile up the river, where they were encamped, singing. I identified awhile till they started off the identical hymn that I used to hear sung when I was a boy. Wal, fore I knowed it, the tears was running down my cheeks, and I was back in the little village church at home, with my old gray-haired mother and father, the choir singing that same hymn. Wal, wal, what's the use?"

He drew his hand across his eyes, as though some mist obscured his vision, and, with a great sigh, turned his back upon the past and looked up the river into the future.

Two large boats, or canoes, a moment later glided to view, the melody swelling out with a full volume, as it was free from all intervening obstruction, and floated over the smooth face of the river.

Each canoe was capable of holding twenty-five or thirty men, but at present there were little over twenty in the entire party. They were after furs and peltries, and took with them a good working crew and no more.

A few moments after they appeared, Nick Whiffles stepped to the edge of the stream and motioned with his hand for them to approach. He was recognized at once, and both canoes instantly headed toward shore. The inmates showed no intention of landing, but the foremost rounded to for him and Ned to step aboard.

"Ye yield you the place of honor," said a round-faced, Scotch-looking gentleman, whom Nick recognized as William Mackintosh, a leading man in the employ of the Hudson Bay Company. "There is room for your boy and your dog. I don't suppose you want to take your horse along?"

"No; I will leave Shagbark here."

"Suppose he wanders away?"

"He knows better than to go very far; and he and Calamity understand each other so well that they're sure to find each other out. Come, dog, in with you, and lad, do you follow."

Calamity sprang lightly into the front of the canoe, while the boy leaped, as nimbly as a fawn, after him. Then the old hunter followed, with more deliberation and dignity. As he glanced over the crews, he identified quite a number, and nodded good-naturedly to them. But no other salutation passed between them, their attending strictly to business, leaving their director, Mr. Mackintosh, to play the part of host.

The latter chatted pleasantly with Nick, but all the time he nervously scanned the lad, who sat playing with the dog, and occasionally glancing at the shore as they glided by.

"Nick," said Mr. Mackintosh, after a while, "I had heard that you had a boy, but I never saw him before. He doesn't resemble you a bit."

"And why should he?"

"I believe you can always detect a likeness between father and son, and I've been studying for the last ten minutes to see where it is between you and him, but it isn't there at all."

"I never was married, and consequently I never had a son. He is no more a relation of mine than you are."

"Ah! who is he?"

"Ned Hazel."

"I know, but where did he come from, and how is it that he is in this part of the world?"

Nick seemed on the point of replying to this question in full, when he suddenly checked himself.

"If it's all the same to you, Mr. Mackintosh, we won't talk about that thing. You understand?"

The Scotchman did understand, and showed his good breeding by skillfully turning the conversation upon business matters.

"We shan't make the Indian village to-night, I'm afraid, Nick."

The hunter turned his head, and scrutinized the shore, a moment, so as to make sure of his location before answering.

"No; but there is going to be a full moon, and you can go a good distance; you orter try and hit it near daylight."

"Can we do it by rowing an hour or two this evening?"

"Yes; powerful easy."

"Then it shall be done; we can make a good dozen miles before night."

"Yes, as we've got the current with us."

"You haven't seen any of the Nor'-westers, have you?"

"Not lately; but there's a party of 'em somewhere in the country. I've run ag'in' signs of 'em, and then I've heard of 'em through some of the red-skins."

"I hope they won't get down to the Blackfoot village ahead of us, for we count on making a good haul there."

"I don't think there's any likelihood of that, but some of them chaps ar' as cunning as foxes."

"I hope, too, that our party will not encounter them."

As Mackintosh added these words, it was with a seriousness which showed that he was earnest in the wish which he had expressed.

CHAPTER III. THE PHANTOM PRINCESS.

Just as the shades of night began settling over Elk river and the adjoining wilderness, the brigade (as it was improperly termed) turned the heads of their canoes toward shore, and landed at a point where there was a sort of natural clearing in front of a dense wood.

Here the fine discipline of the party was made manifest. A certain number at once busied themselves in gathering wood for fuel, others brought forth the provisions, which they always carried with them, while every one seemed to have some particular duty to perform, and to understand what it was without any direction from the leader of the party.

The Hudson Bay Company, although trading through its agents, with friendly Indians, still had occasional difficulty with some of the tribes within their territory. When they penetrated into the Oregon department, they generally went prepared for any emergency, and the caution that distinguished all their movements showed that they were not without apprehensions regarding their safety.

Two of their members, therefore, took upon themselves to act the part of scouts, while Nick Whiffles, for the satisfaction of himself and Mackintosh, started out to reconnoiter the country that immediately surrounded them. He went entirely alone—that is, with no companions except his inseparable friend Calamity.

Mackintosh waited until certain that the trader was fairly out of the camp, and then, while his men were busy at their respective duties, he turned to the lad and invited him to seat himself upon the blanket at his side. The boy obeyed cheerfully, but showed in his manner that he had some curiosity to know what it all meant.

The Scotchman had made up his mind to do a thing about which he had some compunctions of conscience, that is, he intended to question the boy without the knowledge of Nick Whiffles.

At the same time, he wished to do nothing in itself wrong. Doubtful whether the lad knew the precise nature of the relationship existing between him and the eccentric trader, he determined carefully to avoid enlightening him in that respect.

Speaking in the most matter-of-fact manner, he said:

"Your name is Ned, I believe?"

"Yes; Ned Hazel."

"Not Ned Whiffles, eh?"

"Oh, no; Nick is not my father; only my uncle."

That point settled, the interlocutor felt the way more clear.

"How do you like this sort of life?"

"Very well."

The answer in which this reply was made proved that the lad, to say the least, was not perfectly satisfied.

"This out-door rugged life is certainly very healthy. I presume you do not know of such a thing as sickness by experience?"

"No, sir," was the respectful reply.

"You talk like a boy of some education. Do you know how to read?"

"Oh! yes; Nick can read a little, and he brought me some books from the forts that I have studied; but then, I don't know much."

"You are about fifteen years of age, I should judge."

"That's it, exactly."

"A boy who has spent all his life in the woods isn't apt to acquire as much as you have done."

"This was a feeler thrown out with an object, and it accomplished its purpose."

"But I haven't always lived in the woods."

"Ah! how is that?"

"Didn't Nick tell you that he found me in a canoe, drifting down the river, and he picked me up, and hunted a week for my owners, and never learned a thing about me? If he didn't tell you, that's the way it was. He took me to his cabin, and I've lived with him ever since, until we love each other just as much as though he were really my father."

"Why, you have quite a romantic history," said Mackintosh, skillfully concealing his curiosity from the youth. "Do you recollect that trip down the river at such an early age?"

"Sometimes I think I can, but I ain't sure. I was very young then, and dressed in baby-clothes."

"What became of those clothes?"

"All lost, I suppose, long ago, as I've never seen them."

"They ought to have been kept, as they might have afforded some clue to your identity in later years."

"Neither Nick nor I care about learning anything more about me."

"Do you have any recollection of anything that happened before Nick found you? You know that persons can sometimes remember things far back in their childhood."

The boy was silent a moment before answering.

"Sometimes I remember a little—only a little."

"Let me ask you to describe your remembrances?"

"It's hard to do; they come to me in dreams sometimes. Then, when I hear men singing away off, it reminds me of something I have heard very much like it, away back, when I was very small; and then, sometimes, when I am stretched out on my back in the woods, looking up through the trees at the clouds, I can remember that I once have seen tall houses, standing close together, and a great many people walking between them."

"That shows you have once been in a city," interrupted the Scotchman.

"There be some pictures of such places in my books, and I know I've seen them somewhere."

"Can you remember any figures or faces?"

"I can remember a woman's face that used to bend over me."

"How did it look?"

"Oh! so beautiful! Like an angel's."

"You can't describe it?"

"No one could—sometimes I think it must have been the *Phantom Princess*."

"The *Phantom Princess*?" repeated Mackintosh, in amazement. "What do you mean by that? Who is she?"

"Haven't you heard of her? But here comes Nick; he'll tell you all about her, for he knows her."

The Scotchman started, and hastily said, in an undertone:

"Oblige me by saying nothing to Nick about the questions I have asked you, and leave me to find out for myself all about the *Phantom Princess*."

Ned looked somewhat surprised at this request, but he nodded, as he rose to his feet, to signify that the request should be respected.

Nick Whiffles seemed entirely unsuspecting

of the interview, and came up in his usual cheery humor.

"Me and Calamity have made a sarnet," said he, "and we can't find any sign of a red-skin near. I'm glad your feed is ready, for I'm as hungry as my grandfather was in England, when he chawed up the Prince of Wales, and chased his father into his palace. The Whiffles family was always noted for their eatin' perclivities; my grandmother used to amuse herself by settin' on the scales and eatin' biled chickens till their heads that was chopped off would outbalance her, and then she throwed away the bones, so that they didn't count."

"You are no great eater yourself, Nick."

"Oh! mighty! no!" sighed the trader; "I was such a small eater that I was considered a disgrace to the family, and was turned out on that account. My grandfather fit in the Revolutionary War, and when he retired on a pension, he got five hundred a year, which he laid out one month in Bologna sausages and salt mackerel, and then bein' as he hadn't any more to live on, he pined away and died, afore he could get his pension increased."

The supper being ready, the trappers gathered in several groups, and sitting down tailor-fashion, fell to with the vim and vigor of men who were in the enjoyment of perfect health and digestion.

Nick Whiffles, Ned and Mackintosh ate in a group by themselves, while all were so occupied with their employment that scarcely a word was exchanged except in the way of request for food.

It was a singular scene. The somber forests in the background, the broad, smoothly-flowing river throwing back the yellow light of the immense, roaring camp-fire, the two large canoes resting against the bank, and the figures of the men engaged in eating.

The warm light of the blazing fagots was scarcely needed, as the full moon was now sailing above in an unclouded sky, and the view up and down Elk river was quite extended.

A full half-hour was occupied in the supper, at the termination of which the pipes were produced. With scarcely an exception, the mouths of the trappers began issuing such volumes of smoke as to make it seem that the entire party were wrapped in a misty cloud.

Mackintosh produced a case of cigars, inviting Nick to join him, but the hunter declined.

"It ain't often I smoke, but when I do, I don't care about chawing terbacker at the same time."

"And I never smoked or chewed at all," added Ned, whereupon the Scotchman replaced his case, with a word of commendation for the lad.

With the taking of their pipes by the trappers, their tongues seemed to be unloosed, and a perfect Babel of talk and chatter raged for a time. There was a fine flow of animal spirits upon the part of all, and many a jest and joke enlivened the intercourse around the camp-fire.

These were hardy men, toughened by the terrible winters of the North-west, by the tempestuous violence of the regions of the Saskatchewan and Mackenzie. They had tramped on snow-shoes along the coasts of Ungava and James' bay, and over rivers where a dozen feet of solid ice intervened between them and the crystal waters beneath.

This was a sort of holiday to them. The unusually severe winter had ended and the spring had fairly set in. The ice had left the streams, and the deep blue of the sky indicated the approach of mild weather. There was a crisp coldness of the air, especially in the morning and evening, which made the warmth of camp-fire and blanket very agreeable.

But the weather was just the thing for active exertion and exercise, and it would not have been changed by any member of the party, had he been given the power to do so.

During the cold months that had just ended, the agents of the great fur companies of the North-west had been busy catching the numerous fur-bearing animals of that territory. With the opening of spring, these were being gathered in, while others were making a tour among the Indians further south, to purchase all that could be procured of them.

An hour's rest, and the signal was given to start again.

Only a few minutes were required for every thing to be placed in the canoes, when they shoved out into the stream. As before, the canoe of Mackintosh took the lead, Nick Whiffles sitting in the front, the Scotchman next, while Ned and Calamity took positions in the rear of them.

The long, sweeping paddles were dipped deep in the water, and the boats glided forward with that easy, swift motion which is seen when a vessel is under the control of skilled oarsmen.

The round, full moon, shining in an unclouded sky, was directly overhead, so that the somber forests threw only a narrow strip of shadow along the shore.

The men did not sing, as was their usual custom when sweeping along in this manner, but their pull was as steady and uniform as though they were keeping time with the motion of some "director" elevated above their heads.

The consciousness that they were in a territory with an air of hostility about it, was the cause of this. When there was no certainty but that the crack of a hostile rifle might be heard at any moment, there was no disposition on the part of the men to make their location known to any lurking foe.

All seemed impressed with the solemnity of the scene, and Nick Whiffles and Mackintosh conversed only at intervals, and then in tones so low that no one else comprehended the words uttered. Even Ned, with his arm thrown affectionately over Calamity, appeared lost in meditation. Perhaps the strange questioning of the Scotchman had again called up those shadowy imaginings of which he had spoken; perhaps his mind was running back to that vague period that preceded his falling into his hands; and he saw once more the tall houses, and the beautiful face bending over him, as he saw them in dreams and reveries, when alone upon his couch, or in the vast wilderness that had so long been his home.

Several miles were passed in this manner, and the surface of the Elk river was as smooth as a mirror, except where the swift-cutting canoes and the long, sweeping paddles rippled the water.

Suddenly Nick Whiffles felt some one grasp his arm, and turning, he encountered the pale face of Mackintosh, who, pointing ahead and down-stream, said, in an agitated whisper:

"Look yonder! What is that?"

Looking in the direction indicated, Nick saw what, without any effort of the imagination, might be termed a "spirit canoe."

Several hundred yards ahead was a small Indian canoe, in which was seated the figure of a woman apparently motionless. The boat and its occupant were both of a snowy-white color, and seemed to have risen from the bed of the river.

The crews of the two large boats had discerned it at the same moment, and, by one impulse, all stopped rowing, while they gazed in breathless amazement upon the scene.

"What could it mean?" Was it a warning from the spirit world? Was it a human being? Had one or even two of these trappers, without any other companions, seen this vision, as it from the presence of the Evil One himself; but with a score of hardy, brave men, they felt too much courage to flee in fear, although every member of the party was impressed with a strange, chilling sensation at the singular sight.

The fact that every living member of the company saw it distinctly and unmistakably, prevented anything like ridicule or jesting.

"Have you ever seen it before?" asked Mackintosh.

"Yes," replied Nick, gazing steadfastly at it. "What is it?"

"The *Phantom Princess*."

"What's that? I never heard of it until to-night."

"You know what the critter is, then, as well as I do."

"Have you ever spoken to it?"

"Yes—but it never answered; I've see'd it, but I never could get any nearer than we are now."

"There is a mystery about it, certainly," added Mackintosh, as if speaking to himself, and then turning about so as to face his men, he spoke in a cheery voice:

"Fall to, boys; if you can overtake that creature, I'll divide fifty pounds between you, when we get back to the fort."

The courageous words of their leader acted like magnetism upon the trappers; their paddles were dipped by one impulse, and the two heavy canoes sped forward as if rowed by the great crew of the Tyne.

Mackintosh leaned forward and peered at the white canoe and its ghostly occupant.

"Do you think we can catch her?" he asked, in a whisper, of Nick.

"No," was the reply; "there ain't a human livin' that can do it."

"We can try it, at any rate."

"S'pose you do; if you go to put your arms about her, she'd go up in the air, and that would be the last of her."

"I am not as superstitious as you, Nick; I think she is real life and blood, and we are going to unravel a curious mystery."

"No, no, it must not! You must prevent it!" she cried, with passionate eagerness.

Mr. Sherman looked at her wonderingly as he lifted his hat to say adieu.

"A strange girl!" he muttered to himself. It was something new to see one so ready to renounce a fortune—to abdicate power.

"She must love the young man!" was his judgment, as he went back slowly to his sanctum. "No woman alive, who was not in love, would have done as she has done!"

That same evening Mr. Claude Hamilton called at General Marshall's house, and sent up his card with a request that Miss Weston would favor him with an interview. She returned a message, begging to be excused from appearing, on account of indisposition. She thought, that he should come to thank her for her agency in restoring his rights; but she could not bear his thanks, so, in spite of Ruhama's remonstrances, she refused to see him.

CHAPTER XVII. THE FAITHFUL NEGRESS.

WEARILY enough sped the hours and the days to the forlorn prisoner.

The scanty streaks of light admitted by the crevices in the planks at the windows sufficed to bring out more forcibly the gloom of the noisome den in which she lay; the air was close and suffocating; the sounds that came from rooms below, of coarse oaths and drunken revelry, terrified her. Many times she started from sleep in affright, supposing that the heavy, hurried footsteps on the stairs were those of men who would presently burst into her room. She could only hide her face, and pray for deliverance; and stop her ears to keep out the hideous language in which Mrs. Hassel's lodgers and guests habitually indulged.

She rose unrefreshed; and her first effort was to move some of the fastenings of the window; but with a view of escape, but to relieve the agonizing pressure on her burning forehead.

Alas! she only exhausted herself in vain efforts. Her fragile strength could accomplish nothing. Then she bathed her head in the small quantity of water placed in a tin basin for her use; and then turned to the plate of breakfast set in the room while she was dozing. The tea was cold; but she managed to swallow part of it; but could not bring herself to touch the uninviting food. Dizzy with the pain in her head, she flung herself again on the bed, protected by her cloak and shawl from the soiled and ill-smelling bedclothing.

When her jailer came in with her dinner, about one o'clock, Elodie besought her, with piteous entreaties, to enlarge the opening at the window that there might be a free circulation of air.

"I feel as if my senses would leave me with this splitting headache," was her complaint. "And whose fault is it, I'd like to know?" cried the beldame. "You've only to say you'll obey your uncle, and you will be taken away, and have a home as splendid as you can desire! I have no patience with such obstinate pride!"

"It is not pride!" wailed the sufferer. "You don't think your own cousin good enough for you to marry!"

The girl sobbed out an entreaty to be spared violent words, that cut through her brain. Only a little fresh water, if she could not have air.

The woman, after a volley of abuse, flung out of the room, slamming the door so as to give the poor patient a terrible shock. She brought in a pail of fresh water, but accompanied it with renewed curses on the stubbornness of her charge.

"I thought you'd 'a' been out of this today!" she exclaimed, angrily. "If you're like to plague me with the care of you much longer, you needn't look for much waitin' on, I can tell you."

"I wish I could die!" sobbed the girl. "I wish you would, and there would be an end of trouble!" retorted the virago. "I shall tell Rashleigh, if you're to stay longer, he must hire somebody to tend on you! What he gave don't half pay me for the room."

Elodie lifted herself up. "You shall be well paid, if you will let me go," she said, with a gleam of hope.

But the woman only laughed. "You don't come it over me that way," she cried. "I know what you can do, and what you can't."

Finding that her reproaches were answered only by groans, she left the prisoner to her solitude.

But when, each time the meal was removed, she found it wholly untouched, when she heard low moans and mutterings of delirium, so it seemed to her—instead of articulate speech, from the unfortunate girl, she began to be uneasy.

She did not want her to die in her house. The inquiry that would follow, and the inquest, would involve her in trouble. Nor did she want her to have an illness, perhaps infectious, that would compel her to call in or help, or to send her only servant to attend her.

Rashleigh, strangely enough, had not returned, and a message sent to his lodgings had not found him. On the third day, therefore, the woman took into the captive's room a hatchet for the purpose of enlarging the aperture at the window.

Elodie was lying quiet, apparently in a doze, but was awakened by the noise of splitting the plank. This was done in a few minutes, making an opening as large as one of the panes of glass. The shawl was further opened by being drawn down from the top, and the cool, fresh air came in.

The girl's untasted breakfast stood beside the bed. Mrs. Hassel gruffly bade her eat it. "I cannot, indeed, I cannot!" was the feeble answer. "But I shall feel better, now I can have the air. If you would only give me more cold water!"

With grumbling the woman complied. She noticed that the girl's cheeks were scarlet, and her eyes bright with fever.

"A pretty business I am like to have," she muttered, as she descended. "She will have a relapse, to a certainty. And a doctor will have to be called in! I will go myself for Rashleigh, and tell him to take her away."

Rashleigh had been arrested and remanded for examination, on the charge of kidnapping a young lady with felonious intent. At that stage of the inquiry no bail was admitted, notwithstanding his declaration that the girl had escaped from him, and he knew not where she was.

Elodie rose, dreadfully weakened as she was, to bathe her head and neck in the cold water. She could not eat. But she managed, with difficulty, to drag herself to the window, where she could look out at the opening.

It was a sorry view, the dirty, small rear yard, choked with heaps of rubbish, with the grimy walls of yards belonging to houses in the next street. A strong, sickening odor

came up from the garbage below. But the sunlight, and the rifts of blue sky seen at a distance, were refreshing.

A woman came out with a basket of wet clothes, and began to hang them on a line. Elodie saw by her hands and bare arms that she was a colored woman.

Two or three times the woman went back and returned with more wet garments, before Elodie caught a glimpse of her face. When she did, she started up wildly, and beat at the window, with a cry of:

"Nelly! Oh, Nelly! Nelly!"

The woman stopped and looked around her, not knowing whence the cry came. Then it occurred to Elodie that to call her in the hearing of her jailer would be to defeat her chance of communicating with her.

She snatched up a cambric handkerchief and waved it from the opening in the window. Then she rolled it into a ball, and flung it as far as she could in Nelly's direction.

The handkerchief had her full name written in a corner. The girl saw Nelly pick it up, and read the name, then kiss it eagerly, and look toward her.

Elodie's face was at the opening, and she made a gesture of caution by putting her finger on her lips. Nelly answered by a silent signal that she understood her.

In a few minutes the captive heard a stealthy step approaching her door. Applying her ear to the keyhole, she caught the low whisper:

"All right, honey! I'll come to ye directly, when the missis is gone out."

Content with this, and full of new hope, the girl sat down and tried to collect her thoughts sufficiently to decide what should be done.

First, she drew from her pocket a small memorandum-book, with a pencil, and wrote clearly on one of the leaves the address of Wyndham Blount's house and office. On another she scrawled a brief note, imploring him to come and save her, before her reason should be overturned in the dreary discomforts of her captivity. He must not lose a moment; or Rashleigh would hide her away where they could never find her.

Her head ached so fearfully, she could not sit up a moment longer. With a thanksgiving and a prayer, she again threw herself on the couch, holding her forehead, on which she had laid a handkerchief dipped in cold water, and listening for the step of her friend and deliverer.

It was more than an hour and a half before she heard again the stealthy step. This time her name was pronounced in a loud tone. She started up and staggered to the door. The paroxysm of fever had returned, and she controlled her movements with difficulty.

"Oh, Nelly!" she wailed, in answer to the call; "take me out! I shall die here!"

"I cannot open the door, honey. I have looked for the key; the missus must have taken it when she went to market. No other key opens this door but the one!"

"Oh, Nelly! What shall be done! Cannot you break the door open?"

"I dare not try, Miss Elodie! Miss Hassel may come back any minute! She would strangle me if she knew I was speakin' to ye! She's an awful woman!"

"Nelly, I cannot live long, shut up here! You must bring some one to help me!"

"Shall I call the police, honey? But the missus would tell them her lies! She told me she had a sick niece up-stairs, just come from the country; and said how her fever was catching, and I mustn't go near her. She'd wallop me if she knew I came up-stairs."

"Nelly, I will shove a paper under the door; can you get it?"

"All right, I've got it, Miss."

"You must go to that place; it's my guardian's—"

"Hi—de young gentleman who came to see your aunt Letty—"

"Nelly, please don't lose any time! Take a carriage and drive there! I have no money, but Mr. Blount will pay for it! Bring him back with you! Do be quick! I feel as if I were going to die! I don't want to die in this horrible place!"

"I'll go directly, honey. I'll wait for the missus to mind the house!"

"Don't wait an instant! I will take care of you, Nelly. You shall go with me."

In five minutes the faithful woman had left the house. Elodie sunk into unconsciousness as the fever rose.

Mrs. Hassel was furious, on her return, to find the house deserted. After calling Nelly at the top of her voice, she ran to the door of the room where her prisoner lay, and turned the key in no little trepidation.

The sick girl lay on the couch burning with fever, and drawing her panting breath like sobs. The woman gave no heed to her sad condition, in her relief to find she had not escaped during her absence. She spoke to her, but received no answer. Then she went out again, and looked the door, muttering threats against her servant, who had gone out without leave, not for the first time.

Not more than two hours afterward, when the virago's rage was beginning to give way to serious alarm, she saw a carriage stop at the front door. A young gentleman descended, followed by two police officers. The door-bell rung violently.

The woman was obliged to open the door. "Where is the young lady you have a prisoner here?" demanded Wyndham Blount.

"A young lady! How you frightened me! There's no young lady here."

Blount made a signal to the officers, one of whom arrested Mrs. Hassel, calling her by name.

"You will see, madam, the game is up. Where is the girl who was kidnapped by Benet Rashleigh, and brought here on Friday night?"

"Rashleigh!" The woman began with abuse of him; she would not answer for any of his dirty practices; not she!

"The young lady was here two hours ago. Show the room where she is, or it will be worse for you!"

"There is only Mr. Rashleigh's niece; he brought her here sick, and asked me to board her till he could take her home. She is not a young lady; but a poor girl!"

"Show us the room!"

The beldame was compelled to obey.

"Do you commonly lock your boarders in their rooms, madam?" asked one of the officers, as the woman reluctantly produced the key.

She muttered something about being afraid the sick girl would walk out in her delirium and fall down the stairs.

"Or threw herself out of the window, I suppose?" mocked the man—notice the barracked window, as the door was thrown open.

"She'll have to go under lock and key for this, herself," observed the other officer, with a sneer.

The beldame broke into the violent execrations and abuse such women use when driven to bay. She threatened to tear out the eyes of her captors.

The officer answered by quietly slipping a pair of handcuffs over her wrists.

Meanwhile Wyndham had lifted in his arms the insensible form on the couch.

Elodie opened her glazed eyes, and looked in his face; but she knew him not. She spoke, but her utterance was only the low moaning of delirium.

Wyndham bade one of the officers help him carry her, wrapped in her cloak and shawl, down-stairs and out to the carriage. He Mrs. Hassel's arrest, led her to the police-placed her tenderly within it, supporting her in his arms, and ordered the driver to go to his mother's house.

The two officers, who held the warrant for court, from which she was consigned to a lodging in the Tombs.

CHAPTER XVIII. LOVE'S MAZES CLEARED.

FOR many days and nights lay Elodie unconscious of all around her, while the brain-fever that had seized upon her ran its fearful course.

Olivia Weston obeyed the summons to her bedside, and took up her abode in Mrs. Blount's house. It was her only comfort to be useful to others.

Ruhama came every day to inquire after the invalid. And more than once Emily St. Clare came to watch at night over the poor girl she learned to love, pitying her so profoundly.

One evening Ruhama came later than usual, and it was nearly dusk when Olivia went into the parlor to meet her.

"I have the doctor's permission," whispered Mrs. Marsh, "to take a look at poor Elodie. I will run up to her room for a few minutes."

She vanished as she spoke.

As Olivia turned, she found both her hands seized by a gentleman who had come in with her friend, but whom she had not at first seen. It was Claude Hamilton.

Olivia had carefully avoided him, and they had not met since the will had been found and restored to Sherman.

He led the trembling girl to a seat at one end of the room, still retaining her hand.

She drew it away gently, as she tried to utter a congratulation, which she felt to be his due.

"I owe everything to you, Olivia," he began; "but—"

"It was my rash act that brought trouble on you," she faltered; "I was bound to seek a remedy when the opportunity occurred so providentially."

"I owe you heartfelt gratitude; for *all* you did was for my benefit. But—Olivia—I cannot avail myself of a will which is not Mrs. Stanley's latest one; which does not express her last wishes."

It thrilled her to the heart to be called "Olivia" by him; but she answered, with such forced calmness as to appear cold:

"Mr. Hamilton, you must not carry too far your chivalric notions. Mrs. Stanley meant you, and you alone, to be her heir."

"Not me alone; you know she did not."

"Why will you pain me by allusions?" Again he caught her hand.

"Would to Heaven," he exclaimed, impetuously, "you would let me shield you from all pain, Olivia. I can only accept this fortune if you will share it with me!"

"Mr. Hamilton, I had never the slightest claim on Mrs. Stanley's bounty! You know I had not. It was a mistake that caused her last—"

Claude interrupted her, clasping her hand warmly, and speaking in tones that went to her very soul.

"She made no mistake, Olivia, in thinking that I loved you with all my heart! I do love you! I have always loved you—you only—and my life will be wretched if you refuse to bless it with your love!"

By an effort the girl released her hand, and hid the starting tears.

"Mr. Hamilton, how can this be?"

"I have been a fool, dearest! I own it! I fled from the sight of you so many months since because I thought you despised me! When I returned, I interpreted your coldness to mean utter aversion. It was only within a day or two that I learned by how gross a blunder I had been deprived of the chance of receiving your answer to my letter. Olivia, my love! I have suffered for it! Can you not forgive me?"

She lifted her face.

"Is it possible? Are you not engaged to Miss Monelle?"

"I have never been engaged to any one. I have never loved any one but you, Olivia! I have feared that you disliked me! I have been most unhappy! Tell me you have not avoided me as you have done, because you disliked me!"

"I never disliked you!"

"Can you love me, Olivia? May I hope to gain your love, if I have never had it? Will you pardon all my folly and stupidity?"

The girl could not speak; but she put her hand in her lover's. It was answer enough.

This time Claude not only imprisoned her hand, but clasped her to his breast, and pressed the kiss of betrothal on her lips.

For an hour they sat together, and the twilight deepened into night. Olivia started as the door was opened, letting in a flood of light from the hall.

Ruhama entered, came up to them, and, seeing how it was, kissed Olivia, with tears in her eyes. "May you be happy!" she murmured.

She went out with Claude; and Olivia sought her own room, to vent her emotion in happy tears. In an hour she went to resume her watch by Elodie's bedside.

The suffering girl had the attendance of the best physicians in the city; but their skill availed little in the struggle with disease. Life and death battled for her; and that life won the victory, was owing, under God's blessing, to her vigorous youthful constitution.

Wyndham took his share in the night-watches, and he was with her when the crisis came. The morning sun sent its first golden shimmer to play on the wall, and the fresh morning breeze came in caressingly, when Elodie opened her eyes, to which intelligence had returned, and fixed them on the face bending over her. Olivia had come in and stood beside Wyndham.

"Dear guardian!" the patient softly murmured.

"You must not talk!" he answered, pressing her hand. "We are so thankful that you will be spared to us."

Elodie closed her eyes in a peaceful sleep, and he stole softly from the room.

When strength returned, the invalid begged to know how she came there; she remembered only the horrible prison in which she had been immured.

What need to prolong the details of our story? The usurper, Richard Lumley, was speedily dispossessed, and Claude Hamilton put the house through a course of cleansing before

it was ready for his occupancy. Olivia did not refuse his petition for a speedy marriage, and her pupil, Elodie, was permitted to be her bridesmaid at a quiet and simple wedding in church.

Nelly was cared for by the friends of the girl she had aided to rescue. And she had saved more, for inside a silken sash given the woman by the late Mrs. Rashleigh, she had found, stitched carefully, the long missing certificate of the marriage of Elodie's parents. Her aunt had taken this means of saving it from her brutal husband, and had forgotten it, supposing it in the box she gave Wyndham. Thus her title to the property was undisputed.

Rashleigh and his sister-in-law were tried and punished, their crime being proved. The man served out a term in State Prison.

Elodie completed her education under the best private tutors; but never cherished her former dreams of musical celebrity. Her voice had lost something of its power, but she retained sufficient to charm the domestic circle, and the friends who gathered round them.

As the wife of Wyndham Blount, she never again wished to figure as a candidate for public applause.

THE END.

A very splendid and powerful love story, by Mrs. MARY REED CROWELL, will soon be commenced, viz.: "Vials of Wrath; or, A Grave Between Them"—one of the most deeply interesting and exciting serials that has appeared for a long time.

Sports and Pastimes.

BY HENRY CHADWICK.

BASE-BALL.

THE PROFESSIONAL ARENA.

PRACTICALLY the great race for the professional "whip" of 1876 is ended, there being no doubt now of the ultimate success of the Boston "Red Stockings" as winners of the championship for the present year. Consequently, already there is a decline in the interest which centered on the contest, and the attention of the base-ball public is now called to the preparations already in progress for the coming campaign of the Centennial year of 1876, the indications now being such as to ensure for that year the greatest furor for base-ball playing ever known in the history of the game. The number of professional organizations it is proposed to place in the arena next year are tenfold greater than has ever before been thought of even. In fact there is not a prominent city North, East and West which does not propose to have its representative professional club in the field in 1876. In view of this important fact it behooves the officers of the present Professional Association to take some preliminary action looking to the introduction of some rule of membership of the National Association which will limit the contestants in the championship arena next season to such clubs as will be in a position to carry out their campaign programme to the close of the season. Certainly the entries for the race for the championship should be limited to regular stock company organizations, all co-operative clubs being excluded. If any one thing has been conclusively proved by the experience of the season's play of 1875, it has been that co-operative professional clubs are in every respect organizations damaging to the best interests of the Professional National Association. They have plainly been shown to be little else than schools where the worst evils of professional play are nursed and supported. Managers of such combinations have no control over their players, they have no command of funds sufficient to defray the expenses incidental to the carrying out of their season's work, and they only act as barriers to the successful work of the regular stock company clubs. The time of the regular stock company clubs has come to let this class of professional clubs run their machines alone, just as the amateur gate-money clubs do, and to limit the entries for the annual race for the pennant to the regularly established stock base-ball organizations, such as the Boston, Hartford, Athletic, St. Louis and Chicago clubs.

THE RECORD OF SEPTEMBER.

September closed with a smaller record of games played in the professional arena than in any previous month of the season. The average, too, was not up to the mark of that of August, the average figure for winning nines being eight runs to a game, instead of seven as in August.

The record of the best games played in September is as follows:

Sept. 14, Hartford vs. Chicago, at Chicago.....	11
Sept. 13, Hartford vs. St. Louis, at St. Louis.....	30
Sept. 23, Philadelphia vs. St. Louis, at St. Louis.....	32
Sept. 23, Boston vs. Hartford, at Boston (ex.).....	41
Sept. 27, Mutual vs. New Haven, at New Haven.....	42
Sept. 23, Philadelphia vs. Chicago, at Chicago.....	50
Sept. 23, St. Louis vs. Philadelphia, at Cincinnati.....	51
Sept. 9, Hoboken vs. Philadelphia, at Philadelphia.....	54
Sept. 15, Philadelphia vs. Athletic, at Philadelphia.....	54
Sept. 27, St. Louis vs. Philadelphia, at St. Louis.....	55
Sept. 13, St. Louis vs. Hartford, at St. Louis.....	60
Sept. 23, Boston vs. Hartford, at Hartford.....	60
Sept. 4, Athletic vs. Boston, at Philadelphia.....	63
Sept. 6, Mutual vs. Atlantic, at Brooklyn.....	82
Sept. 7, Hartford vs. St. Louis, at St. Louis.....	82
Sept. 8, Boston vs. Mutual, at Brooklyn.....	85
Sept. 23, Hartford vs. Mutual, at Brooklyn (ex.).....	86
Sept. 23, New Haven vs. Mutual, at Brooklyn.....	86
Sept. 2, Boston vs. Philadelphia, at Philadelphia.....	88
Sept. 2, Boston vs. Philadelphia, at Philadelphia.....	94
Sept. 23, Philadelphia vs. St. Louis, at St. Louis.....	95

Some better play may be looked for in October, as there will be quite a struggle for second and third position.

THE AMATEUR ARENA.

The Amateur National Association will find its most important subject for legislative action at its next session to be a remedy for the existing and growing evil of "revolving," which has far outreached this season any previous progress it had made in amateur organizations. Nearly half the leading contests among amateur clubs in the middle States during September were played by picked nines under the name of club teams. The result has been that all the interest which would naturally accrue from the rivalry between legitimate club nines has been lost, and quarrels, disputes and dissensions have multiplied to a surprising extent.

Some fine play has been exhibited in the amateur arena during September, as the appended record of the leading amateur contests of the month fully shows, the number of "model" games played being largely in excess of any previous month known in the annals of the game.

AMATEUR NINES' RECORD FOR SEPTEMBER.

Sept. 29, Nassau vs. Union, at Unionville (13).....	20
Sept. 21, Cataract vs. Eckford, at Melrose.....	21
Sept. 2, Flyaway vs. Cricket, at Bingham (10).....	23
Sept. 21, Hoboken vs. Olympic, at Paterson, N.J.....	32
Sept. 9, Ludlow vs. Red Sox, at Louisville, Ky.....	41
Sept. 10, Live Oak vs. Star, at Rome, N.Y.....	41
Sept. 21, Mutual vs. Leather Stocking, at Land.....	41
Sept. 6, Active vs. Expert, at Reading, Pa.....	43
Sept. 3, Star vs. Randolph, at Dover, N.J.....	43
Sept. 21, Eagle vs. National, at Washington, D.C.....	42
Sept. 15, Carbondale vs. Cricket, at Bingham.....	50
Sept. 13, Resolute vs. Mountain City, at Altoona.....	50
Sept. 16, Cincinnati vs. Ludlow, at Cincinnati.....	51
Sept. 18, Zephyr vs. Parkman, at Boston.....	51
Sept. 9, Chicago vs. Cincinnati, at Cincinnati.....	52
Sept. 23, Cincinnati vs. Ludlow, at Cincinnati.....	53
Sept. 13, Philadelphia vs. Thebe, at Philadelphia.....	53

Sept. 18, Peabody vs. Creger, at Gloucester, N.J.	61
Sept. 17, Olympic vs. Chelsea, at Brooklyn	61
Sept. 30, Flyaway vs. Olympic of N.Y., at B'klyn	61
Sept. 29, Resolute vs. T. B. at Bridgeport, Ct.	62
Sept. 25, Lowell vs. Rollstone, at Lowell, Mass.	62
Sept. 11, Star vs. Mountain City, at Altoona	62
Sept. 11, Star vs. Cincinnati, at Covington, Ky.	63
Sept. 6, Coon vs. Archer, at Philadelphia	63
Sept. 2, Mutual vs. Resolute, at Brooklyn	63
Sept. 1, Live Oak vs. Resolute, at Cincinnati	63
Sept. 3, Ludlow vs. Hartford, at Portland, Me.	63
Sept. 4, Active vs. Beacon, at Boston	64
Sept. 9, Fall River vs. Providence, Jr., at F. R.	64
Sept. 15, St. Louis Red Sox vs. Blue St'g, at Cin.	64
Sept. 17, Burlington vs. Peabody, at Burlington	64
Sept. 18, Boston Jr. vs. Ed Yan, at Canton, Mass.	64
Sept. 25, Active vs. Beacon, at Boston	64
Sept. 2, Cricket vs. Star, at Binghamton, (00)	64
Sept. 30, Philadelphia vs. Cincinnati, at Cin.	65
Sept. 17, Star vs. Blue Stocking, at Cincinnati	65
Sept. 21, Active vs. Star, at Cincinnati	70
Sept. 25, Liberty vs. Resolute, at Philadelphia	70
Sept. 2, Expert vs. Doer, at Harrisburg, Pa.	71
Sept. 10, Star vs. Delaware, at Marion, O.	72
Sept. 8, Star vs. National, at Marion, O.	72
Sept. 25, Fall River vs. Resolute, at Fall River	72
Sept. 3, Chicago vs. Actna, at Detroit	74
Sept. 3, Flyaway vs. Star, at Syracuse	74
Sept. 6, Red Sox vs. Olympic, at Louisville	74
Sept. 15, Englewood vs. Excelsior, at Englewood	74
Sept. 11, Eagle vs. St. Louis Red Sox, at Louisville	74
Sept. 30, Nassau vs. Leroy, at Brooklyn	75
Sept. 4, Maple Leaf vs. New Haven, at Guelph	75
Sept. 1, Live Oak vs. Philadelphia, at Reading, Pa.	75
Sept. 1, Blue City vs. Phoenix, at Taunton, Mass.	76
Sept. 3, Resolute vs. Live Oak, at Portland, Me.	76
Sept. 30, Nassau vs. Leroy, at Brooklyn	76
Sept. 30, Nassau vs. Leroy, at Brooklyn	76
Sept. 28, Star vs. Americus, at Cincinnati	76
Sept. 4, Eureka vs. Eagle, at Holliston, Me. (10)	77
Sept. 15, Live Oak vs. Philadelphia, at Reading, Pa.	78
Sept. 14, Lowell vs. Mutual, at Lowell	78
Sept. 25, New York vs. Brooklyn, at Brooklyn	78
Sept. 4, Equitable vs. Staten Island, at S. Island	83
Sept. 4, Equitable vs. Staten Island, at S. Island	83
Sept. 30, Mutual vs. Dawner, at Pittsburgh	83
Sept. 4, Philadelphia vs. Active, at Reading, Pa.	83
Sept. 25, National vs. Bradcock, at Washington	83
Sept. 24, National vs. Bradcock, at Washington	83
Sept. 30, Hartford vs. Star, at Covington, Ky.	83
Sept. 25, National vs. Bradcock, at Washington	83
Sept. 23, Randolph vs. Philadelphia, at Philadelphia	83
Sept. 14, Live Oak vs. Star, at Syracuse	84
Sept. 4, Athletic vs. Noisy, at East New York	84
Sept. 15, Live Oak vs. Philadelphia, at Reading, Pa.	84
Sept. 14, Star vs. St. Louis Red Sox, at Cin.	84
Sept. 4, Eureka vs. Clipper, at Hopkinton, Mass.	85
Sept. 15, Flyaway, Jr. vs. Louisville, at Louisville	85
Sept. 15, Flyaway, Jr. vs. Louisville, at Louisville	85
Sept. 17, Quickstep vs. Active, at Reading, Pa.	86
Sept. 25, Boston, Jr. vs. Clipper, at Brooklyn	86
Sept. 25, Boston, Jr. vs. Clipper, at Brooklyn	86
Sept. 3, Leather Stocking vs. Buckeye, at Cincinnati	86
Sept. 3, Haymaker vs. Pioneer, at Canton (10)	86
Sept. 3, Haymaker vs. Pioneer, at Canton (10)	86
Sept. 3, Blue City vs. More, at Cincinnati, at Cin	87
Sept. 3, Blue City vs. More, at Cincinnati, at Cin	87
Sept. 14, Boston vs. Taunton, at New Bedford	90
Sept. 20, Hoboken, Jr. vs. Dexter, at Providence	93
Sept. 2, Mutual vs. Philadelphia, at Philadelphia	93
Sept. 9, Resolute vs. Wilkesbarre, at Waverly	93
Sept. 14, Hoboken vs. Fulton, at Hoboken	94
Sept. 14, Hoboken vs. Fulton, at Hoboken	94
Sept. 11, Live Oak vs. Star, at Syracuse	95
Sept. 18, Empire vs. Concord, at Brooklyn	95
Sept. 9, Active vs. Pioneer, at Canton, Mass.	95
Sept. 25, Creighton vs. Philadelphia, at Philadelphia	96
Sept. 25, Creighton vs. Philadelphia, at Philadelphia	96
Sept. 20, Buckeye vs. Hickory, at Columbus	96
Sept. 15, Live Oak vs. Rochester, at Rochester	97
Sept. 8, Comet vs. Oileants, at Unadilla, N. Y.	97
Sept. 7, Quickstep vs. Brighton, at Washington	98
Sept. 7, Quickstep vs. Brighton, at Washington	98
Sept. 10, Quickstep vs. Active, at Reading (10)	99
Sept. 16, Taunton vs. Fall River, at F. River (0)	99

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We give, in Number 296 of this paper, the first installment of

PACIFIC PETE.

The Prince of the Revolver.

A TALE OF THE VALLEY MINES.

BY JOSEPH E. BADGER, JR.,
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Portraying the peculiar life of the wild mining region with unequalled power and truthfulness. The chapters are a succession of marvelously strange and exciting episodes in apparently veracious history.

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Sunshine Papers.

Burke Corrected.

EDMUND BURKE, writing of the French revolution and the unfortunate Marie Antoinette, says: "Little did I dream that I should have lived to see such disasters fallen upon her in a nation of gallant men, in a nation of men of honor and of cavaliers. I thought ten thousands and swords must have leaped from their scabbards to avenge even a look that threatened her with insult. But the age of chivalry is gone."

"But the age of chivalry is gone!" Did Burke's words express a reality, a reality that extends even to this day? or did he, seeing blindly through the clouds of war, mistake for perished what was merely for a time submerged under the waves of social anarchy? Surely if Burke could come back from his long quiet, and make a few observations in a modern society, he would not have the ungraciousness to declare that we have no chivalry among us. How could he so malign our gallant and courteous American youths? In what age of chivalry ever bloomed such flowers as adorn our highways and public places?

Oh, spirit of Burke! we invoke thy presence for a brief period among our brothers, and friends, and masculinity in general, of this seventh decade of the nineteenth century! Be thou our companion for a little time, in the ordinary walks of life, and learn that thy declaration was premature, in withholding the chivalrous souls that inspire the words and actions of our lords of creation!

We, of the sex of that fair queen whose sad fate you so gallantly deprecate, ask you to accompany us this day. We propose to make some visits. Ah! how unfortunate that we pass to the door our slender umbrellas slips to the sidewalk; its silken cover is too dainty for such contact; but the mishap is valuable, as it points a trait of American chivalry; see how careful this gentleman is to let it be undisturbed, and how gallantly he admires us soil our light gloves in picking it up.

Will that stage-driver never look this way and heed our signal? It seems not, and we must await the next, for the chivalry of these several gentlemen who have observed our trouble, teaches them, intuitively, that it would rend our hearts to have them raise a sound in our behalf. But here is the next stage, and the driver sees us. How steep and slippery and muddy are the steps, how unwieldy the heavy door, how chivalrous the man at this corner reading his paper, how considerably he spares us the surprise of having to thank him for any assistance rendered! That gentleman opposite will get our bill changed, carefully count what money is to be returned to us, and settle our fare! Why, my poor spirit, that would be absurd! How much more gallant to allow us these little entertainments! He can display his knightly character in so much courtly ways; he can put the window down back of us, or up, without consulting us; he can stare at us prolongedly, leer at us over his paper, or step on our sensitive toes. We might, but no chivalrous man would annoy us by alighting to help us down the dangerous steps.

We are ushered in our friend's parlor. A gentleman is just issuing thence. He does not embarrass us by holding wide the door with courtly bow, or pushing a comfortable chair to our acceptance. He chivalrously does not notice us and goes his way. Presently some gentlemen callers lounge in. They pleasantly forget to leave sporting news and a flavor of slang in their conversation outside the doors; they chivalrously criticize an absent lady,

speaking of her in admirably familiar terms. When we arise to go, they do not relax their peculiarly easy positions, but wish us a carelessly polite good-day.

We turn our steps toward the business part of town. Notice, oh, spirit! how freely our chivalrous men bestow on us bold glances, criticize us aloud as we pass, fling compliments to our ears as we go near them on the promenade. Notice also how they smoke in our presence, ornament the walk for our feet, appropriate seats as we go, come in rude contact with us, and hasten on without apology; how seldom they seek to lighten our burdens, give us a helping hand, or perform little gallantries for us. And think you no chivalry eddies through their veins? Ah, how you wrong them! They can clear themselves, if they will. Listen to what they will tell you: That women, in these days, are so self-sufficient, and usurping, and independent, that trust chivalry can only express itself as you have beheld!

Now, spirit, return whence thou camest, and be satisfied that the "age of chivalry" abides with us!

A PARSON'S DAUGHTER.

GENTLE WORDS.

How little gentle words cost, yet what a potent power have they over us mortals! What encouragement do they not bear—how they lighten toil, remove obstacles and cheer us on over the rugged pathway of life! They make us and others brighter, happier and more cheerful, that it is impossible to compute the amount of benefit they confer on one and all.

After a woman has been at work all the day long, and feels weary enough to lay down her burden of life, vexed with the crosses she has met with, discouraged with the many failures she has made, almost tired out with the hard work she has accomplished, and troubled in spirit because she has not done as much as she should, and knowing that the same dull routine of duties must be gone through with on the morrow, don't you think a gentle word would help her to bear more patiently the troubles and cares that fall to her lot? Would not she feel thankful to you for a few words of sympathy and encouragement?

When the merchant comes home from a long day's work of vexation and care, and his mind and brain are in quite a tumult, and he feels cross and snappish with himself and those around him, if there were a friendly face to meet him on the threshold and kindly hands were there to remove his overcoat, while gentle words welcomed him home as though he were really welcome, his brain would be calmer and his mind more tranquil. If those for whom he was slaving his life were to treat him with loving kindness and feelings of true and sincere affection he would look on his cares as pleasures; the gentle words would make him forget that sales were slow, that there were such things as money panics, his home would seem like a little Eden. These gentle words yield more interest than railway shares; they are like trees that bear abundant fruit.

When you want to reclaim the drunkard do so with gentleness; let him see that he has a friend, as well as an adviser in you, and you'll make more converts to temperance than you will by scolding the inebriate. A few gentle words sway many a man from a downward course and reclaim others who have fallen. Many a reformed drunkard will tell you that gentle words saved him where harsh treatment had no effect. Kindness is very seldom thrown away and there isn't too much of it in this world. Intemperance must be an affliction for any one to put up with, but there are cases where bitter words have caused a man to feel inclined to secede, while loving, gentle ones, caused another to break the bottle and never touch the drink again.

Have gentle words for the aged; they'll not be with you long; they'll not trouble you a great while; they are fast nearing the grave, and you should smooth the passage to their long home with gentle words. Remember, they have many pains, infirmities and afflictions of which we know nothing. Their age makes them dependent on us for many things, and we should undertake that care as a solemn duty. If the old are fractious and peevish, and feel inclined to answer them harshly, let us keep the unkind words to ourselves. If we are peevish and petulant in our answers, it will but make them more so; yet, if they notice that our responses are gentle, they will not be so exacting in their demands. When we are cross and harsh with the helpless aged, we forget there was a time when we were even more helpless than they, and our treatment was not such as we bestow upon them. Put the matter in that light and you will see plainly how the case stands.

Commendation spurs us on to do better and strive the harder to reach the goal we are hoping to win; the gentle words are to us, what the cheers of the performer are to him, for we feel that others are anxious for our success. Censure discourages us; it makes us falter for fear failure will be the result, and because we fear a failure we fear to try.

If courage were marked on every guide-board in our journey through life, we should go on bravely and persistently until the end was reached, and we should find that gentle words put us on our way to heaven. Let us then find those who are in need of encouragement, and do all in our power to show them, for gentle words and loving deeds, the way is not so dreary, and kindness is not entirely dead.

EVE LAWLESS.

Foolscap Papers.

Niagara Falls.

THE Niagara Falls beats all the falls which we have had since the beginning of the Christian era.

I am glad that I have lived to behold them, and will be glad if I can live a good many years after I behold them.

The water falls over just as easy as can be from a height of one hundred and sixty-eight feet to a depth of one hundred and sixty-eight feet, making in all three hundred and thirty-six feet.

I hired a guide, who took hold of my hand and led me around for fear I might fall over the precipices, and forget to fall back, as they usually do.

In falling such a distance the water gets so dreadfully hot that it boils at the bottom, and steam enough rises up to furnish all the engines in the world if it was gathered up.

The mist is very dense, and if more of it was missed we could see more of the Falls.

I gazed upon the terrible scene—I believe that is what they have got in the habit of calling it.

I asked the guide how long these Falls had been in operation. He said they had been in running order long before the making of the world, and charged me a shilling for answering the question.

They never cover them up when it rains. How my grand soul yearned to travel around through the country with those Falls exhibiting them in all the principal cities!

They say the Falls are gradually wearing away, and it seemed to me it would be a good thing to turn the water to one side and preserve the Falls dried.

The guide told me that the proprietors had an ample supply of water to run them many years yet.

The Falls never freeze up in the winter entirely; if they did what a glorious thing it would be to slide down on a sled!

Occasionally some one goes down over the Falls, but he generally goes on down through to China.

A little steamer plies below the Falls, but it never runs up the Falls more than a hundred feet.

Newly married people generally, on their wedding tour, take the Falls in—afterward they have their falls out.

If it wasn't so wet around there it would be much better.

I wanted the guide to catch a little rainbow for me, but he said he hadn't time to do it.

I half believe the Falls will play out before long from the fact that everybody about there charges so much for anything that they are trying to make the most out of it before it plays out. You can only see the Falls through a hole in a fifty dollar bill, nowadays; it bursts a fifty dollar bill mighty soon.

Now a boy to black my boots and he charged me fifty cents, though I furnished half the spit. When I remonstrated with the gouger he said that he had his mother's son, his sister's brother, and his uncle's nephew to support and times was hard.

When the hackman upset me he wanted to charge me two dollars extra, because, he said, he couldn't afford to upset that way for nothing; he argued so well I could not resist, but paid him. But one thing I will say in favor of these hackmen: they didn't take all my money, though I had considerable; they left me enough to get back home with, and I am very thankful.

The roar of the falling waters is so deafening that you can't hear your wife talk, and I think it would be kind of soothing to the nerves to reside in the immediate neighborhood—the sound is so lulling.

The Falls do not belong entirely to the United States, and there is where I blush for my country. The best part of the Falls is on the Canada side, which is a shame, and reflects no credit on our patriotic statesmen. What are they doing all this time?

A Canada chap told me they had fallen over in his country nearly a mile high.

"Falls of water?" I asked.

"Even so," said he.

But he afterward told me they were rain-falls; then we smiled.

An English nobleman who was visiting Niagara introduced himself to me and showed me the most polite honor and attention; wherever I went he went. I was very proud of his attentions, and never allowed him to pay a cent for expenses. He gave me the most pressing invitations to visit him at his castle when I went to England, and borrowed a hundred dollars of me. He promised to see me in the evening, but he forgot it. Now, I had all confidence in the man. Who knows but he might have been robbed and thrown over the rocks! Perhaps he forgot my name.

I allowed my poetic and entranced soul to be drawn from the contemplation of the glories and splendors of the enchanting scene before me, unequalled upon this terrestrial sphere, by a fellow who was flipping cards on a bench beside me. He asked me blandly what I'd bet on picking up the tray. That was plain enough. A fellow as simple as he ought to lose five dollars, so I laid down my V, picked up the dice, and went down to see the Cave of the Winds.

Niagara is a stupendous thing—especially the stew; yet with all the discomforts, one is led to think it no aggravation. I came away impressed with the magnitude of the Falls and the smallness of my pocket-book, with a roaring in my ears which wakes my wife up in the night.

WASHINGTON WHITEHORN.

Gents' Fall Styles.

TRAVELING and business suits for fall and winter display the prevalent taste for extreme English styles. Large plaids are chosen for the whole suit, coat, waistcoat, and trousers. The prevailing colors are iron and dark brown, though other dark grounds are worn. The materials are English and Scotch goods, also the rough-threaded Knickerbocker cloths, and the soft, flexible camel's hair, closely resembling in fabric and design those in use for ladies. The business coat is a double-breasted reeling sack, cut longer than sacks have been for many years; its edges are double-stitched—not bound. The trousers are very large. As these business suits are for general everyday wear, tailors seek to vary the manner of making them. Sometimes they are in the full English style with a single-breasted Newmarket coat fastened by from one to three buttons, with flaps at the waist and pockets. With such a coat the waistcoat is high to wear with a scarf. Plaids and other dark mixtures known as suitings are used for the coat, waistcoat, and trousers. Undress suits of heavy blue chev or of cloth of excellent quality are in favor with young men.

Some fashionable tailors insist upon making everything en suite, and positively decline to make a coat unless they are also permitted to make a waistcoat of the same material with it. Cloths with fine minute diagonal lines, twilled like nuns' serge, are preferred to the broad, coarse-looking diagonal cloths worn a year ago. Dark-blue suits, of invisible shades that are little more definite than blue-black, are even more desirable than they were during the summer.

Wide bindings of galloon are fashionable for edging coats, but men of plain tastes consider these trimmings too pronounced and showy, and prefer instead a narrow roll or a small corded edge of braid. Men who dress in the height of fashion wear wide pantaloons, cut straight, with no spring over the ankles. All new overcoats are very long in the skirt, and in this alone there is any rule, for their shapes are diversified. Surtouts and sacks are both worn. The more dressy surtouts are long, double-breasted frocks, with silk linings and velvet collars. Sacks are long and shaped to the figure, and may be either single or double-breasted. The greater number are double-breasted, but there is still a preference for single-breasted sacks with fly-fronts. The fashionable color for overcoats is dark-gray in the pepper-and-salt mixtures known as "Oxfords." Dark-blue, brown, and black colored overcoats are likewise worn. The materials are ribbed diagonal and basket-weave cloths. Heavier cloths, that are called fur-beavers and elysians, will be used for winter overcoats.

Reefing sacks of the heavy material used for overcoats are made up very warmly, and worn before putting on winter overcoats by gentlemen who do not wear the light overcoats described for autumn.

Topics of the Time.

—WE now know where the cheese comes from—some of it. Crawford county, Pa., has in operation fifty-eight factories, producing 6,310,000 pounds of cheese; Erie county twenty-two factories, producing 2,610,000 pounds; Mercer and Venango counties eleven factories, producing 647,700 pounds. The aggregate in the four north-west counties of Pennsylvania is one hundred and one factories, producing 9,557,700 pounds of cheese. And yet there are counties in New York that can show equally big figures. If figures don't lie then we must be tremendous cheese eaters. Of course, we send the article all over the world, but even that don't stop the supply. Hay, corn, cotton, wheat, hogs and cheese—these are their order of value, commercially, to the country.

—A boy recently found a pocket-book and returned it to its owner, who gave him a five-cent piece. The boy looked at the coin an instant, and then handing it reluctantly back, audibly sighed, as he said: "I can't change it." But the meanness man we have heard of is the father of a family of seven boys and girls, in a near by State, who subscribes for this paper, and after having read it carefully, then lets it out to the boys and girls in succession, charging one cent each, for a reading. This nets him seven cents—a profit of one cent per week! When he dies he expects to go to the Golden City, but how he is to get in we don't see.

—The engineering skill demanded to get the Southern Pacific railway across the mountains through what is called Tehachape Pass, may be inferred from the statement that for twenty miles there is one continuous succession of cuts, fills, and tunnels. To reach an elevation in one part of this section eight miles of track will be laid in a single mile of actual progress. The road at that point runs through a tunnel, and then encircles a hill at a heavy grade. Another tunnel is nearly two miles long, and in places over a thousand feet below the surface. It is a matter of grave doubt if the trade with the Pacific warrens a second road, built at such enormous cost.

—We are now informed that four of the editors of the Vicksburg, Miss. Herald have been killed within a few months; but the Herald says this is nothing compared with the mortality on the Vicksburg Sentinel, which lost five editors, and then died itself. Journalism in that region must be an exhilarating profession. At that rate of consumption the supply bids fair to fall short of the demand. We know of at least a dozen editors in the North who ought to go to Vicksburg for their country's good.

—The colored parson of a Georgia church gave out a hymn which did not accord with any tune known to the congregation. "An old darkey in the corner rose up and said: 'Parson, I'm pretty sartin I kin reach to both ends o' them verses.'" "Brudder Jones will raise de tune," and the old man gave out a series of shrieks to outlive a callophe with a drunken engineer. "de singing will be adjourned to de next meeting."

—If the physiognomy of James Lack of California isn't prepossessing, and his name isn't aristocratic, he is just as welcome as a big harvest. In his new deed of trust, by which he disposes himself of the great bulk of his fortune of \$3,000,000, he reduces the sum for a monument to Francis Scott Key from \$150,000 to \$50,000. The appropriation of \$250,000 for bronze statuary to be set up at Sacramento is reduced to \$100,000. The \$300,000 appropriated to endow a school to be called "The California School of Mechanical Arts," is increased to \$540,000.

—The British iron-clad Indefatigable is now about one-fourth completed, work having been begun upon her in February, 1864. Unless the progress of invention results in the projecting of a still more formidable engine of marine warfare before the Indefatigable is launched, she will possess the thickest armor, the heaviest guns, the largest displacement in tons, the most machinery in the world, and probably prove more expensive than any other war-vessel hitherto constructed. She will have engines for steering, for loading guns, for hoisting shot and shell, for ventilation, for moving turrets, for lowering boats and for turning the capstan as well as for propulsion. The vessel is little more than a floating castle, rectangular above water, one hundred feet long by seventy feet in width, and protected by twenty-four inches total thickness of iron. The two turrets which are placed within the citadel are formed of iron of a single thickness of eighteen inches, and within each of them are two eighty-ton guns, which can be trained to any point of the horizon. The main engines of the vessel are of the horizontal type, and are driven by up to eight thousand indicated horse power, and the bunkers carry twelve hundred tons of coal. The total cost of the vessel is placed at \$2,605,000.

—A somewhat exciting and astonishing announcement is made by certain astronomers in Europe regarding evidences of life on the moon. The discovery of the moon, which has been discovered, shining from the extreme edge of the moon's disk, at a point where no mountains break the continuity of its perimeter. This light suddenly disappeared and remained invisible for nearly twelve months. It has lately reappeared in greater brilliancy than ever, and the immense power of the telescope attached to the Pamiateska observatory, in Russia, so well known in the scientific world, has developed the fact that the light proceeds from some huge burnished substance, acting as a mirror, which must be at least one hundred feet in diameter. The most astonishing thing in the matter is the almost complete proof that this is actually a mirror of artificial construction, and the theory of the savans at Pamiateska is, that it is erected for observations of a scientific character, principally to observe the phases of the earth's surface. As the moon presents to us the side that is always away from the sun, we see only the uninhabitable portion of the satellite. The side toward the sun may be very habitable, and with an atmosphere quite suitable to animal life.

—We gave an account some time ago of an attempt to breed the camel in Texas, for use as a great sandy plains in the north-west. A new enterprise, with more prospect of its success, has been started in the vicinity of the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, where ostrich "farms" are now being developed, to secure a regular and abundant supply of ostrich feathers, so highly prized in the fashionable world. A large extent of suitable bush-land is fenced in, over which the birds roam peacefully enough in ordinary times, but in the breeding season the pairs select and occupy one of the several small camps laid out for the purpose. The birds are very fierce and savage at this period, but at all other times are as tame as a flock of sheep. They assemble to be fed by a flock, though the feeders have to be careful of any loose articles there may be about, for the ostriches snap up and swallow immediately any such trifles as tobacco pipes, knives, spoons, coins, etc., and make attempts to wrench off buttons from boots and clothing, and are not particular as to watches and chains if they cause them. The plucking of the birds is a dangerous operation. They are enticed by the bugle-call into a small inclosure, where they are packed as closely as possible to prevent them from administering those terrible kicks to the pluckers of which they are capable, and which are delivered with a force sufficient to break a man's thigh. The plumage of the farmed ostrich is said to be abundant in quantity and superior in quality and the yield from a well-stocked and carefully-tended farm returns a large profit on the whole outlay.

Readers and Contributors.

TO CORRESPONDENTS AND AUTHORS.—No MSS. received that are not fully prepaid in postage.—No MSS. preserved for future orders.—Unavailable MSS. promptly returned only when stamps accompany the inclosure, for such return.—No correspondence of any nature is permissible in a package marked "to book MS."—MSS. which are important are not sent or wasted. In all cases our office notes first upon merit or fitness; second, upon excellence of MS. as "copy," third, length. Of two MSS. of equal merit we always prefer the shorter.—Never write on both sides of a sheet. Use Commercial Note and paper as most convenient to editor and compositor, bearing off each page as it is written, and carefully giving at the full or near number.—A rejection by no means implies a want of merit. Many MSS. unsuitable to us are well worthy of use.—All experienced and popular writers will find it ever ready to give their offerings early attention.—Correspondents must look to this column for all information in regard to contributions. We can not write letters except in special cases.

We shall have to decline "The Orphan Girl," "Two Women's Wrongs," "Lumpy," "A Queer Serenade."

Accepted: "Nothing but a Baby," "What a Bohemian Saw," "A Leading Lady," "The Old Love and the New," "A Sketch in Transit," "Denver Jane," "A Pass."

T. S. E. Reporters are paid by the "job" or piece, or are salaried per week.

JOURNAL DEAN. Don't understand you. Are you really engaged, or have you been so and are not so now?

PETER G. A grain in weight was taken from the wheat grain, which, in early times, was used as a weight.

How is it. The President's salary now is fifty thousand dollars per year. The White House is the President's residence. It belongs to and is furnished by the Government.

INLAND BOY. You can only get a position on a vessel by coming down to some seaport and shipping as a "raw hand"—not a very desirable position for any person who can do anything else. A common sailor leads, at best, but a good trade, is the mere slave of the master and mates. We advise you by all means to learn a good trade, and not to think of the sea.

MRS. Y. G. A very good dark paste is made by taking three ounces of soft water, one ounce of gum arabic, and one-fourth ounce of glycerine. Dissolve by heat, and bottle for use. The glycerine prevents it from spoiling by "souring."

MISS GRACE G. You can wear white for the ceremony, and resume your mourning afterward, if you do not wish to take on so soon after your mother's death. Or, you can wear a traveling dress of lavender, with white gloves, collar, cuffs and ribbons, laying them aside before you start upon your journey.

OSKOSH CHAP. Olive Logan is Mrs. Wirt Sikes. She did not write the novel "Met By Chance," and the Oakland man therein introduced, we are told, was "drawn from life," although we cannot give names. We see in it no lively nor caricature. It is meant for a clever characterization, and is such. Your lady friend is undoubtedly a good writer. You can write, if you see proper, through us.

ELLEN WEST. We hardly know what a "copyist for a paper is." To prepare copy for the compositor demands an editor's hand, and is not the work of an editor's work, but a printer's or compositor's. Your chronography is very plain, but when you use the word except for accuracy, you show that you are not skilled in the knowledge of words.

T. P. S. The largest trees are the great conifers in California—some of which are thirty feet in diameter and over two hundred feet in height. The telegraph ocean cables are of about 2½ inches in diameter, the conducting rod being imbedded in this cable. There are no holes in the cable. It is solidly woven. Dispatches pass east and west almost simultaneously.

ODDS AND ENDS asks: "How many whales he will have to eat before he can command the amount of brains necessary to write good poetry?" A great many men of brains command poetry to write.

OSCAR E. N. Moody and Sankey don't propose to hold "camp-meetings," but to proceed in the largest lecture rooms or assembly buildings in the great cities. The first camp-meetings in America were held in 127 by two Baptist ministers, one named Samuel Harris and the Rev. James Reed, who preached in that part of Virginia between the Rappahannock and James rivers.

HUGH FAY, Brooklyn, asks: "Is it proper for a young gentleman to ask a young lady if he may call upon her, or should he wait for an invitation? Do you think \$12 a week salary for a writer, a wife, or a man? What do you think of my writing?" A gentleman is upon pleasant terms of acquaintance with a lady, there is no impropriety in his preferring a request to be allowed to call upon her. He should say \$12 a week as a most insufficient sum to support a wife, if you pay either rent or board; and, even if free from those items, it is a very small one. If you are energetic and industrious you will rapidly make advancement to a more paying position; meanwhile you can save as prudently as possible, and perhaps be saving something toward the time when you desire to support a wife. You write a very nice hand and pleasing letter, though you might still beneficially study up a little on orthography.

MAJOR D. E. G. It is no uncommon thing to see quite young men becoming bald. We much question the efficacy of any of the advertised remedies, and exultants. This item seems to suggest a remedy. A gentleman, who had lost nearly all his hair after a very severe attack of gonorrhea, consulted a French physician of great reputation, who, as a hair restorer. The prescription given him was a draught of the homoeopathic tincture of phosphorus, one ounce of castor oil, the dose being one drop of the mixture three times weekly for half an hour each time, after the skin of the head had been thoroughly cleansed with soap and without soap. The treatment was faithfully carried out about six months; the hair soon began to grow, and in a year from the time of starting the doctor's advice, his head was as thoroughly covered as ever, the new crop of hair being about two shades darker than the old.

SOLDIER OF THE LINE did not think the exact date of the introduction of artillery is known. In the battle of Cressy, A. D. 1346, Edward III., it is declared, used four cannon, but we have no account of the invention previous to that date. Bombs were soon after introduced, showing that artillery was well understood. Cannon certainly were employed in Germany in the fourteenth century. There now is a piece of ordnance in Amberg stamped with the date 1333. Old Roger Bacon (who died A. D. 1292) well understood the properties of gunpowder.

GIPSY GOWER. There are gipsies, of the real Bohemian race, in this country. Where the race sprung from no one can tell. In the fifteenth century they first made their appearance in Western Europe, under a leader who styled himself the Duke of Lower Egypt—hence their name gipsies. Fortunate-telling and thieving were their chief occupations. They are now scattered all over Europe. They have a distinct language, and are, essentially, heathen, having no religion. In this country they are the same vagabond race as in Europe—a worthless excrement on society.

SKIDMORE SIM, New York, writes: "I expect to officiate as groomsmen at a wedding where I shall be slightly acquainted with the bride as I intended sending her a present that will arrive about the time the ceremony takes place, which would be the proper way of insuring that the bride should maiden name or her name to be? What complimentary term might I with good taste write on my card which will be attached to the present? Address the present to Miss—? The better taste will be the attaching of your visiting card without any other inscription."

MAJOR D. D. Shrewsbury. The "newest French bonnet shape" is called the "Titans," and is worn with face trimmings for married ladies, and without for young ladies. It comes in felt, and felt hats trimmed with velvet and the latest styles of twilled, brilliantine, or damassee—take the lead of all others. You can get a felt hat in any shade of plain colors, from black to white, in plush, plumes, blues, greys, fawn, leather, cameo, paper, or cream. Hats are quite large, and all worn far off the head. The "newest color" in felt, velvet, silk and ribbon is Russian blue, a bluish tawny shade.

ARDENT ADMIRER, St. Louis. All depilatories or preparations for removing superfluous hair from the skin are more or less dangerous to use. Of necessity to effect the desired object they must be powerful, and unless very carefully applied, and thoroughly removed, will make the skin very sore. Never apply them when there is any abrasion of the skin. Procure from your druggist one drachm of crystallized hydro-sulphate of sodium, ten drachms of finely powdered quicklime, and eleven drachms of pulverized starch. Mix in a powder. For use, make a paste with a teaspoonful of the powder and lukewarm water. Apply to the skin, not longer than three minutes, then wash off thoroughly with clear warm water. Apply to only a small surface at one time. Keep the powder dry.

Unanswered questions on hand will appear next week.

MAGDALEN.

BY ELEN E. REKFOR.

Down the dark street, in the swift falling snow,
Wanders a woman with eyes full of woe;
White is her face in the desolate night;
Oh, would to God that her soul was as white!
Hither and thither she roams, while the storm
Smiles cruel hands on her shivering form;
Young as the years go, with sorrow so old,
Homeless and friendless, and out in the cold.

Sometimes she stops where a light glimmers far
Into the darkness, as though 't were a star;
She sees the warm fires ablaze on the hearth,
And hears, like one dreaming, the music and mirth.

Which belongs to a world that is further away
From the world that she lives in, than darkness
from day.
And she thinks, when these glimpses of sweet
home are given,

The gates are ajar, and she sees into Heaven.
She shrinks from the sight, as if struck by a blow,
When she sees a warm kiss on a face pure as snow,
And she shivers and moans in the storm of the night.

And wanders away from the woe-mocking light.
For the outcast like her, there's no home but the street,
No kind words, no pity, no kisses to meet.
Homeless and friendless, and wild with her pain,
She turns and is lost in the shadow again.

Out in the cold, but the cold of the streets
Chills not her heart like the faces she meets.
Women who weep for such woes, at the play,
Pass her with scorn in their eyes every day.
Men pass her by with a smile and a sneer;
She's nothing to hope for, and all things to fear.
Ah! but the wolf of destruction is bold,
And the outcasts are weak who are out in the cold.

Oh, women and men, how your tender hearts stir
With pity to hear of an outcast like her.
But you meet her next day, and the sight of her
Is as little to you as the last fall of snow.
Little wonder she's lost when you help thrust her
down.

In the swift-rushing river of ruin to drown.
Ah, look to it, look to it, women and men,
And remember your Christ, and the poor Mag-
dalen!

Erminie:

THE GIPSY QUEEN'S VOW.

BY MRS. MAY AGNES FLEMING,
AUTHOR OF "THE DARK SECRET," "AN AW-
FUL MYSTERY," "VICTORIA," ETC., ETC.

CHAPTER XV.

"AFTER MANY DAYS."

"I will paint her as I see her.
Ten times have the lilies blown
Since she looked upon the sun."

—BROWNING.

AND ten years passed away.
It was a joyous morning in early spring.
From the pine woods came the soft twittering
of innumerable birds, filling the air with melody;
while the soft, fragrant odor of the tall,
swinging pines came floating on every passing
breeze. The sun rose in unclouded splendor
above the dark tree-tops, and the bright waves
of the Chesapeake danced and flashed in the
golden rays. No sound broke the deep, pro-
found stillness of the wide, dry moor; no living
thing, save now and then some solitary bird
that skimmed along over the fern, was to be
seen.

Far away in every direction nothing
met the eye but the blue, unclouded sky above,
and the black, arid barrens below, that lay hot
and dry in the glare of the morning sunshine.

Suddenly the sylvan silence of the spot was
broken by the clear, sweet notes of a hunting-
horn, that startled the echoes far and near,
and the next moment the forms of a horse and
rider came dashing over the moor.

The horse was a splendid animal, a small,
jet-black Arabian, with graceful, tapering
limbs, arching neck, flowing mane, and small,
erect head, and bright, fiery eyes. His rider
was a young girl of some twelve years, who sat
her horse like an Arab hunter, and whose dark,
unique style of beauty merits a wider
description.

She was very slight and rather tall for her
age; but with a finely proportioned figure, dis-
played now to the best advantage by her well-
fitting riding habit—which consisted of a skirt
of dark-green cloth, a tight basque of black
velvet. Her face was thin and dark and some-
what elfish, but the olive skin was smooth as
satin, and deepening with deepest crimson in
the thin cheeks and lips. Her forehead was low,
broad, and polished; her saucy little nose de-
cidedly retroussée; her teeth like pearls, and her
hands and feet perfect. And then her eyes—
such great, black, lustrous, glorious eyes,
through which at times a red light shone—such
splendid eyes, veiled by long, jetty, silken
lashes, and arched by glossy black eyebrows,
smooth and shining as water-leeches—eyes full
of fun, frolic, freedom, and dauntless daring—
eyes that would haunt the memory of the be-
holder for many a day. Her hair, "woman's
crowning glory," was of intense blackness,
and clustered in short, dancing curls round
her dark, bright, sparkling face. In the shade
those curls were of midnight darkness, but in
sunshine, red rings of fire shone through like
tiny circlets of flame. She wore a small, black
velvet hat, whose long sable plume just touch-
ed her warm, crimson cheek.

Such was the huntress, who with a pistol
stuck in her belt, a little rifle swung across her
shoulder, dashed along over the moor, holding
the bridle lightly in one hand, and swinging,
jauntily, a silver-mounted riding whip in the
other.

As she reached the center of the moor, she
reined in her horse so suddenly that he nearly
reared upright, and then, lifting her little
silver bugle again to her lips, she blew a blast
that echoed in notes of clearest melody far
over the heath.

This time her signal was answered—a loud
shout from a spirited voice met her ear, and in
another instant another actor appeared upon
the scene.

He, too, was mounted, and rode his horse
well. He was a tall, slender stripling of about
fifteen, and in some ways not unlike the girl.
He had the same dark complexion, the same
fiery black eyes and hair; but there all resem-
blance ceased. The look of saucy drollery on
her face was replaced on his by a certain fierce
pride—an expression at once haughty and dar-
ing. He was handsome exceedingly, with
regular, classical features, a perfect form, and
had that mark of high birth, the small and
exquisitely-shaped ear, and thin curving nos-
tril. Erect he sat in his saddle, like a young
prince of the blood.

"Bon matin, Monsieur Raymond!" shouted
the girl, as he gallantly raised his cap and let
the morning breeze life his dark locks. "I
thought the sun would not find you in bed the
first morning after your return home. How
does your serene highness find yourself?"

"In excellent health and spirits. I'm very
much obliged to you—as our friend Mr. Toosy-
pegs would say," answered Master Raymond,
for he it was, as he laughingly rode up beside
her. "Where's Ranty?"

"In bed. That fellow's as lazy as sin, and
would rather lie there, sleeping like some old
grampus, than enjoy a ride over the hills the
finest morning that ever was."

"How do you know grampuses are fond of
sleeping?" said Raymond.

"How do I know?" said the girl, in a high
key, getting somewhat indignant. "I know
very well they are! Doesn't Miss Toosy-
pegs, when she's talking about Orlando sleeping
in the morning, always say he's 'snoring like a
grampus' and if Miss Priscilla doesn't know,
that's been to England, and every place else, I
would like to know who does!"

"Well, I've been to England, too," said
Raymond.

"Yes, and a great deal of good it's done
you," said the young lady, contemptuously.
"But that's the way always. Ever since
Ranty and you went to college, you've got so
stuck up, and full of Latin and Greek, and
stuff, there's no standing either of you. Last
night, Ranty had to go and ask aunt Deb for
the bootjack in Latin, and when she couldn't
understand him, he went round kicking the
cat and my nine beautiful kittens, in the most
awful manner that ever was; and swearing at
her in Greek—the hateful wretch!"

And Miss Petronilla Lawless scowled at Ray-
mond, who laughed outright.

"Oh! come now, Pet, don't be angry!" he
said. "Where's the use of quarrelling the very
first morning we meet?"

"Quarrelling!" repeated Miss Pet, shortly;
"I'm sure I don't want to quarrel; but you're
so aggravating. Boys always are just the
hatefulest things!"

"Most hateful, Miss Lawless," amended
Raymond, gravely. "There's a great deal of
good sense but bad grammar in that sentence.
I don't like boys myself half so well as I do
girls—for instance, you're worth a dozen of
Ranty."

"Yes; you say so now, when Ranty ain't
listening; but if you wanted to go off on
some mischief or other, I guess you wouldn't
think of me. But that's the way I'm al-
ways treated, pitched round like an old shoe,
without even daring to say a word for my-
self."

This melancholy view of things, more par-
ticularly the idea of Miss Pet's not having a
"word to say for herself," struck Raymond as
so inexpressibly ludicrous, that he gave vent
to a shout of laughter.

"Yes, you may laugh!" said Pet, indignantly;
"but it's true, and you ought to be
ashamed of yourself, making fun of people in
this way. I am not going to stand being im-
posed upon much longer, either! If Miss Pris-
cilla keeps snubbing and putting down Mr.
Toosy-peggs all the time, that ain't no reason
why I'm to be snubbed and put down too—is
it?"

"Why, Pet, what's the matter with you this
morning?" exclaimed Raymond. "I never
knew you so cross; has the judge scolded you,
or have you bagged no game, or has your pony
cast a shoe, or—"

"No, none of them things has happened!"
broke in Pet, crossly. "I suppose you'd keep
on or, or, or-ing till doomsday, if I let you! I
worse still, and I wouldn't mind much if you
shot 'me on the spot!" said Pet, in a tone of
such deep desperation that Raymond looked at
her in real alarm.

"Why, Pet, what has happened?" he in-
quired, anxiously. "Nothing really serious, I
hope."

"Yes, it is really serious. I'm going to be
sent to school—there now!" said Pet, as near
crying as an elf could be.

"Oh! is that all?" said Raymond, immeasur-
ably relieved. "Well, I don't see anything so
very dreadful in that."

"Don't you, indeed?" exclaimed Pet, with
flashing eyes. "Well, if there's anything
more dreadful, I'd like to know what it is! To
be cooped up in a great dismal dungeon of a
schoolhouse from one year's end to 't'other, and
never get a chance to sneeze without asking
leave first. I won't go, either, if I die for it!"

"And so you'll grow up and not know B
from a cow's horn," said Raymond. "I am
sure you need to go bad enough."

"I don't need it, either!" angrily retorted
Pet. "I can read first-rate now, without spell-
ing more than half the words; and write—I
wish you could see how beautifully I can make
some of the letters!"

"Oh! I saw a specimen yesterday—Minnie
showed it to me—looked as if a hen had dipped
her foot in an ink-bottle and claved it over the
paper."

"Why, you horrid, hateful, sassy—"
"Abandoned, impertinent young man!" in-
terrupted Raymond. "There! I've helped you
out with it. And now look here, Pet, how do
you expect to be raised to the dignity of my
wife, some day, if you don't learn something?
Why, when we are married, you'll have to
make your mark!"

"I've a good mind to do that now with my
whip!" exclaimed Pet, flourishing it in dan-
gerous proximity to his head. "Your wife,
indeed! I guess not! I'm to be a President's
lady some day, Aunt Deb says. Catch me
marrying you!"

"Well, that will be your loss. Where's the
judge going to send you?"

"Why, he says to the Sacred Heart; but I
ain't gone yet! I'd a heap sooner go to
Judestown, with Minnie, to that school where
all the boys and girls go together. Oh, Ray!
there are just the nicest boys ever was there—
especially one with the beautifullest red
cheeks, and the loveliest bright buttons on his
coat ever you seen!"

And Pet's eyes sparkled at the recollection.
"Who is he?" said Raymond, who did not
look by any means so delighted as Pet fancied
he should.

"His name's Bobby Brown; and only he's
all as yellow as the yolk of an egg ever since
he had the jaunders, he'd be real pretty. But
I'm getting hungry, Ray. I'll race you to the
cottage, and bet you anything I'll beat
you!"

"Done!" cried Ray, catching the excitement
now sparkling in the dark, brilliant face of
the little fay beside him; and crushing his cap
down over his thick curls, he bounded after her
as she dashed away.

But Pet was better mounted, and the best
rider of the two; and a ringing, triumphant
laugh came borne tantalizingly to his ears as
she distanced him by full twenty yards, and
galloped up to the little white cottage on the
Barrens.

"Fairly beaten!" he said, laughing, as he
sprung off. "I am forced to own myself con-
quered, though I hate to do it."

Though he laughed, his look of intense mor-
tification showed how galling was defeat.

"Ah! and how do you expect to be
raised to the dignity of my husband some day,
if you don't learn to ride better? Why, when
we're married, I'll have to give you lessons!"
said Pet, demurely; though her wicked eyes
were twinkling with irrepressible fun under
their long lashes.

"Oh, I see!" said Ray, gayly. "Poetical
justice, eh? Paying me in my own coin? Well,
if you can beat me in riding, you can't
in anything else!"

"Can't I, though?" said Pet, defiantly.

"Just you try target-shooting, or pulling a
stroke oar with me, and you'll see! Schools
where they teach you the Greek for bootjack
ain't the best places for learning them sort of
things, I reckon!"

The thunder of horse's hoofs had by this
time brought another personage to the stage.
It was Erminie—"sweet Erminie," the little
beauty, and heiress of a princely fortune and
estate.

The promise of Erminie's childhood had been
more than fulfilled. Wondrously lovely she
was! How could the child of Lord Ernest Vil-
liers and Lady Maude Percy be otherwise!
She had still the same snowy skin of her in-
fancy, softly and brightly tinged with the most
delicate pink on the rounded cheeks; her face
was perfectly oval, and almost transparent;
her eyes were of the deepest, darkest violet
hue; her long curls, that reached nearly to her
waist, were like burnished gold, and the snow-
white forehead and tapering limbs were per-
fect. In spite of the difference between them,
though one was dark and impetuous, the other
fair and gentle, yet there was a resemblance
between Raymond and Erminie. You could
see it most plainly when they smiled; it was
the smile of Lady Maude that lit up both faces
with that strange, nameless beauty.

"Oh, Pet! I'm so glad you've come!" she
joyfully exclaimed. "Guess who's here?"

"Who? Ranty?" said Pet.

"No, indeed. Mr. Toosy-peggs. He heard
Ray was come, and rode over this morning to
see him."

"Oh, I must see Mr. Toosy-peggs!" exclaimed
Ray, laughing, as he bounded past the two
girls, and sprung into the house.

It was a neat, pleasant little sitting-room,
with white-muslin blinds in the windows, that
were already darkened with vines; clean, straw
matting on the floor, and chairs, table, and
ceiling fairly glistening with cleanliness. There
was a wide fireplace opposite the door, filled
with fragrant pine-boughs, and sitting in a
low rocking-chair of Erminie's, in the corner,
was our old friend, Mr. O. C. Toosy-peggs, per-
fectly unchanged in every respect since we
saw him last.

"Why, Mr. Toosy-peggs, how do you do? I
hope you have been quite well since I saw you
last?" cried the spirited voice of Ray, as he
grasped Mr. Toosy-peggs' hand and gave it a
cordial shake.

"Thank you, Master Raymond, I've been
quite well, I'm very much obliged to you,"
said Mr. Toosy-peggs, wriggling faintly in his
grasp. "So is Miss Toosy-peggs, so is Aunt Bob,
and all the rest of the family—I'm very much
obliged to you."

"Dogs and all, I hope, Orlando?" said Pet,
as she entered.

"Yes, Miss Pet, the dogs are quite well, I'm
obliged to you. I hope you feel pretty well
yourself?"

"No, I ain't, then. I'm not well at all. I've
been in a state of mind all the week, and
there's no telling how long it may last."

"Good gracious! you don't say so!" said the
alarmed Mr. Toosy-peggs. "It's not anything
dangerous, I hope?"

"Well, people generally think the small-pox
is dangerous," began Pet, with a sort of gloomy
sternness, when she was interrupted by Mr.
Toosy-peggs, who, seizing his hat, rushed to the
door, shrieking out:

"The small-pox! Oh, my gracious! Why,
Miss Pet, how could you go to come here, and
give it to us all like this! Good gracious! for
to think of being all full of holes like a potato-
steamer!" said Mr. Toosy-peggs, wiping the cold
perspiration off his face.

"But the small-pox ain't no circumstance to
my trouble," went on Pet, as if she had not
heard him. "I'm going to be sent to school!"

"Come back, Mr. Toosy-peggs; she hasn't got
the small-pox," said Ray, laughing. "There is
not the slightest danger, I assure you. Pet
was only using an illustration that time."

"Good gracious!" exclaimed Mr. Toosy-
pegs, dropping into a chair and wiping his
face with his handkerchief, "if you didn't
pretty near scare the life out of me!"

"Well, you wouldn't be the first one I've
scared the life out of!" said Pet, swinging her
riding-whip. "I'm apt to astonish people now
and then!"

"I should think so," said Ray. "Do you
remember the night she coaxed you out sailing
with her, Mr. Toosy-peggs, and upset the boat;
and then, added insult to injury by pulling you
on shore by the hair of your head? That was
an awful trick, Pet!"

"I haven't got it out of my bones yet," said
Mr. Toosy-peggs, mournfully. "I never ex-
pected such treatment from Miss Pet, I'm sure,
and I don't know what I had ever done to de-
serve it."

"Well, don't be mad, Orlando. I'll never
do it again," said Pet, in a deeply-penitent
tone. "But, I say, Minnie, when are we going
to have breakfast? I've an awful appetite this
morning."

"In a moment. Hurry, Lucy," said Er-
minie, as she entered the room.

"I was just up-stairs, bringing grandmother
her breakfast."

"Hem! How is the old lady?" inquired
Miss Pet.

"As well as usual. She hardly ever comes
down-stairs now. Do hurry, Lucy. Miss Law-
less will soon be starved, if you keep on so
slowly!"

"Lor' sakes! I is hurryin', Miss Minnie,"
said Lucy, as she bustled in, drew out a small,
round table, laid the cloth, and prepared to
arrange the breakfast-service. "Spec' dat ar'
little limb 'inks folks ought to git up do night
afore, to have breakfast ready time 'nuff for
her," muttered Lucy to herself, looking dag-
gers at Pet Lawless, who, swinging her riding-
bat in one hand and her whip in the other,
watched Lucy's motions with a critical eye.
Erminie, with her sunny face and ready hands,
assisted in the arrangements; and soon the
whole party were assembled round the table,
doing ample justice to Lucy's morning meal.

And while they were thus engaged, I shall
claim your patience for a moment, dear read-
er, while we cast a brief retrospective glance
over the various changes that have occurred
during those ten years.

By the kind care of good-natured Mr. Toosy-
pegs, and his friend, Admiral Havenful, the
gipsy Keturah had been amply provided for.
As Raymond and Erminie grew up, they had
been sent to Judestown to school, with the
children of Judge Lawless, whose daughter,
Miss Pet, has already been introduced to the
reader. The dark, gloomy recluse, Keturah,
was an object of dread and dislike to the nei-
ghborhood around. She shunned and avoided
them, lived her own inward life independent
of them all, and was therefore hated by them.
And when, about a year previous to the pre-
sent time, she received a severe paralytic
stroke, from the effects of which she never
fully recovered, very little sorrow was felt or
expressed. Sweet, gentle little Erminie was,
however, a favorite with all, and so was the
bold, bright, high-spirited Raymond, to whom
the somewhat eccentric old Admiral Havenful
took such a fancy that he insisted on sending

him to college with his nephew, Ranty, or
Randolph Lawless. To college, therefore, the
boys went; and Erminie remained at the Bar-
rens, and went every fine day to Judestown
to the district school, sometimes, but very
rarely, accompanied by Pet Lawless; for that
wild young lady voted schools and school-
teachers and "Committee men," unmitigated
bores, all, and preferred her own "sweet will"
and her pony Starlight to suffering through
"readin', writin' and reformat." In vain her
father, the judge, stormed and threatened her
with all sorts of calamities. Pet, metaphysi-
cally speaking, snapped her finger in the face
of all authority; and the more they wanted
her to go, the more she wouldn't, though she
did offer to do her best to learn if they would
let her go with Ray and Ranty. But gaiters
were things forbidden inside the college gates;
and besides Ranty very ungallantly protested
that all girls in general, and "our Pet" in par-
ticular, were nothing but "pests," and that he
wouldn't have her near him at any price.

Master Ranty Lawless did not like the female
persuasion, and once gruffly announced that
his idea of heaven was, a place where boys
could do as they liked, and where there were
no girls. So as Pet had no mother to look af-
ter her, and quenched it over the servants at
home, she grew p pretty much as she liked,
and was not far and near as the wildest,
maddest, skip-over-the-moon madcap that ever
threw a peaceable community into convul-
sions.

This much being premised, it is only neces-
sary to say that Ray and Ranty had returned
from college for a few months' vacation, the
day previous to the commencement of this
chapter, and then go on with our story.

"When is Miss Priscilla coming over, Mr.
Toosy-peggs?" asked Erminie, as she filled for
the third time his cup with fragrant, golden
coffee.

"Morrer evening," replied Mr. Toosy-
pegs, speaking with his mouth full; "she's going
to bring you a parcel of muslin things to work
for her."

"The collar and caps she was speaking of,
I guess," said Erminie, with her pleasant smile.

"How in the world, Erminie," exclaimed Pet,
"do you find time to work for everybody? I
never saw you a moment idle yet."

"Well, it is pleasant to be doing some-
thing," said Erminie; "and besides, Miss Pris-
cilla can't do fine sewing, her eyes are so weak,
you know. I can't bear to sit still and do no-
thing; I like to sew, or read, or something."

"Ugh! sewing is the most horrid thing," said
Pet, with a shrug; "I don't mind reading a
pretty story to pass time now and then; but
to sit down and go stitch—stitch—stitching,
for hours steady—well, I know I'd soon be in
a strait-jacket if I tried it, that's all! I was
reading a real nice book the other night."

"What was it?" asked Ray. "I should like
to see the book you would like to read."

"Well, there ain't many I like, but, oh! this
one was ever so nice. It was all about a hate-
ful old Jew who lent money to a man that
wanted to go somewhere a-courting; and
then this Jew wanted to cut off a pound of his
flesh, to eat, I expect—the nasty old cannibal!

And then this lady, I forget her name,
came and dressed herself up in man's clothes,
and got him—the fellow who went courting,
you know—off somewhere. Oh, it was splen-
did! I'll lend you the book, sometime, Min-
nie."

"Why, it must have been the 'Merchant of
Venice' you read," said Ray, "though such a
jumbled up account of it as that, I never heard
of. I'll go over for the book to-morrow and read it
to Min, if she cares about hearing it."

Before Erminie could reply, a surprised ejacu-
lation from Pet made her turn quickly round.
Ray's eyes wandered in the same direction,
while Mr. Toosy-peggs sprung from his seat in
terror; thereby badly scalding himself with the
hot coffee, at the sight which met his astonished
eyes.

CHAPTER XVI.

MASTER RANTY.

"A rare compound of oddity, frolic and fun."
—GOLDSMITH.

A LITTLE, old, decrepit woman, bent double
with age, leaning on a staff, and shaking with
palsy, stood as suddenly before them as if she
had sprung up through the earth. Her dress
was the most astonishing complication of rags
that ever hung together on a human back be-
fore. A long, old-fashioned cloak that, a hun-
dred years before, had probably been all the
rage, swept behind her; and as it trailed along,
seemed in imminent danger of throwing the
unfortunate old lady over her own head, every
minute. A brown, sun-burned face, half hid
in masses of coarse, gray hairs, peered
wildly out; and from under a pair of bushy,
overhanging, gray eyebrows, gleamed two
keen, needle-like eyes, as sharp as two-edged
stilettoes. This singular individual wore a
man's old beaver hat on her head, which was
forcibly retained on that palsy-shaking mow-
er by a scarlet bandanna handkerchief passed
over the crown, and tied under the chin.

Altogether, the little, stooping, unearthly-
looking crone was one of the most singular
sights that mortal eyes ever beheld.

So completely amazed were the whole as-
sembly that for some five minutes they stood
staring in silent wonder at this unexpected
and most startling apparition. The little old
woman, steady herself with some diffi-
culty on her cane, shaded her eyes with one hand,
and peered at them with her sharp eyes.

"Don't be afraid, pretty ladies and gentle-
men," said the little old lady, in a shrill, sharp
falsetto. "I won't hurt none o' you, ef you
behave yourselves. I guess I may come in!"

And suiting the action to the word, the lit-
tle owner of the extraordinary head-dress hob-
bled in, and composedly dumped herself down
into the rocking-chair Mr. Toosy-peggs had late-
ly vacated.

"Now, what in the name of Hecate and all
the witches, does this mean?" exclaimed Pet,
first recovering her presence of mind.

"It means that I'll take some breakfas', if
you'll bring it down, Miss," said the little old
woman, laying her formidable-looking stick
across her lap; and favoring the company, one
and all, with a prolonged stare from her keen,
bright eyes.

"Well, now, that's what I call cool," said
Pet, completely taken aback by the old wo-
man's sang froid. "Perhaps your ladyship
will be condescending enough to sit over here
and help yourself?"

"No, thankee," squeaked her ladyship. "I'd
rather have it here, if it's all the same to you.
I ain't as smart as I used to was; and don't
like to be getting up much. Perhaps t'other
young gal wouldn't mind bringing it here,"
she added, looking at the astounded Erminie.

Roused out of her trance of astonishment,
not unmingled with terror, by claims of hos-
pitality, Erminie hastened to comply; and
placing a cup of fragrant coffee and some but-
tered waffles on a light waiter, placed it on a
chair within the old woman's reach.

That small individual immediately fell to,
with an alacrity quite astonishing, considering

her size and age; and coffee and waffles in a
remarkably short space of time were "among
the things that were, but are no longer."

"Thankee, young 'oman, that was very
nice," said the old woman, drawing out a
flaming, yellow cotton pocket-handkerchief,
and wiping her mouth, as a sign she had fin-
ished; "my appetite ain't so good as it used to
be; I reckon that'll do for the present. What's
your dinner hour, young gals?"

"Little after midnight," said Pet.

"I—I'm Orlando C. Toospegs, I—I'm very much obliged to you," stammered Mr. Toospegs, dodging behind Pet, in evident alarm.

"Young man, come over here," solemnly said the beldame, keeping her long finger pointed, as if about to take aim, and never removing her chain-lightning eyes from the pallid physiognomy of the unhappy Mr. Toospegs.

"Go, Horlander," said Pet, giving him an encouraging push. "Bear it like a man; which means, hold up your head, and take your finger out of your mouth, like a good boy. I'll stick to you to the last."

With chattering teeth, trembling limbs, bristling hair, and terror-stricken face, Mr. Toospegs found himself standing before the ancient sibyl, by dint of a series of pushes from the encouraging hand of Pet.

"Young man, wouldst thou know the future?" began the old woman, in a deep, stern, impressive voice.

"I—I—I—I'm very much obliged to you, Mrs. Two-Shoes," replied poor Mr. Toospegs. "It's real kind of you, I'm sure, and—"

"Vain mortal, spare thy superfluous thanks," interrupted the mysterious one, with a wave of her hand. "Dark and terrible is the doom of the man who dares to look upon the stars that dogs will cease to bark, the stars in the firmament hold their breath, and even the poultry in the barnyard turn pale to hear it. Woe to thee, unhappy man! Better for thee somebody else had a millstone tied round his neck, and were plunged into the middle of a frog-pond, than that thou shouldst live to see that day."

"Good gracious!" ejaculated the horror-stricken Mr. Toospegs, wiping the cold drops of perspiration off his face, as the sibyl flourished her snuff-box in the air, as if invoking kindred spirits to come to her aid.

"Sublime oration!" exclaimed Ray, laughing inwardly.

"Live to see what day?" inquired Pet, whose curiosity was aroused. "The day he gets married, maybe."

"Awful will be the results that will follow that day," went on the seeress, scowling darkly at the irreverent Pet. "Tremendous clouds will flash vividly through the sky, the blinding thunder will show itself in all the colors of a dying dolphin, and a severe rain-storm will probably be the result. On thyself, oh, unhappiest of mortals, terrible will be the effects it will produce! These beautiful snuff-colored freckles will shake to their very center; these magnificent whiskers, which, I perceive, in two or three places show symptoms of sprouting, will wither away in dread, like the grass which perisheth. This courageous form, brave as a lion, which has never yet quailed before man or ghost, will be rent in twain like a mountain in a gale of wind; and an attack of influenza in your great toe will mercifully put an end to all your earthly agonies and troubles at once! Unhappy mortal, go! Thou hast heard thy doom."

A more wretched and weebegone face than Mr. Toospegs displayed, as he turned round, no earthly eye ever fell on before. Ray had turned to the window in convulsions of laughter.

"I ain't well," said Mr. Toospegs, mournfully, as he took up his hat. "I've got a pain somewhere, and I guess I'll go home. Good-morning, Mrs. Two-Shoes, I'm very much obliged to you, I'm sure."

And slowly and dejectedly Mr. Toospegs crushed his hat over his eyes, and turned his steps in the direction of Dismal Hollow.

"Poor Horlander!" said Pet; "if he isn't scared out of his wits, if he ever had any. Say, Goody, won't you tell me fortune, too?"

"Come hither, scoffer," said the sibyl, with solemn sternness. "Appear, and learn the dark doom Destiny has in store for thee. Fate, that rules the fortunes of men as well as little yaller gals, will make you laugh on 'tother side of your mouth, one of these days."

"Oh, Hamlet! what a falling off was there!" quoted Ray, laughing. "What a short jump that was from the sublime! Don't pile on the agony too high, Mother AWFUL."

"Peace, irreverent mortal!" said Goody Two-Shoes, giving her snuff-box a solemn wave; "peace, while I foretell the future fate of this tawny little mortal before me!"

"Well, if you ain't the poliest old lady!" ejaculated Pet. "But go on; I don't mind being called ugly, now. I'm getting used to it, and rather like it."

"You'll never be drowned," began the sibyl, looking down prophetically in Pet's little dark palm.

"Well, that's pleasant, anyway," said Pet. "Because you were born to be hanged," went on the old woman, unheeding the interruption.

"Whew!" whistled Pet.

"Your days are numbered—"

"Well, I never saw a number on one of 'em yet," interrupted the incorrigible Petronilla.

"Peace, scoffer!" exclaimed the beldame, fiercely. "The fates disclose a speedy change in thy destiny."

"I expect they do," said Pet; "for I'm going to be sent to school soon."

"Some dark torture is in store for you, an agony that nothing can alleviate, a nameless secret misery—"

"Perhaps it's the cholera," suggested Pet. "if it is, I ain't afraid; 'cause gin and water will cure it."

"Silence, girl! and mock not destiny thus. At some future day, you will be a wife."

"Well, there ain't anything very wonderful in that, I'm sure; I didn't need to be told that. You didn't expect I'd be an old maid—did you?" said Pet.

"I behold here," continued the seeress, peering into the little palm quite heedless of the interruption, "a miserable little but, where thirteen red-haired children are playing, and a tawny woman, with a dirty face, in the midst of them, is—"

"Spanking them all round!" interrupted Pet, eagerly. "If she isn't, it ain't me."

"Will you be silent?" vociferated the ancient prophetess, with increasing sharpness. "Terrible is the doom of those who scoff at fortune as thou dost! Don't withdraw your hand. It is here plainly revealed that if you travel much you'll see a good deal."

"Go away!" ejaculated Pet, incredulously. "And if you have a great deal of money you'll be rich."

"It ain't possible!" once more broke in the unbelieving Miss Lawless.

"And if you don't die, you'll live to be pretty old."

"Now, who'd 'a' thought it," said Pet.

"Leave me, wretched unbeliever!" said the old woman, flinging away Pet's hand, with angry disdain. "Leave me; but beware! I am not to be mocked with impunity."

"Neither am I," said Pet; "so I'm not going to believe a word about them thirteen red-headed children. A baker's dozen, too; as if twelve wasn't enough! Foh! I ain't such a goose, Goody Two-Shoes."

"Well, wait, you misdirected, sunburned, unfortunate, turned-up-nosed misbeliever!" exclaimed the old sibyl, shaking her fist at Pet, in a rage. "Wait! And when my words come true, remember they were foretold by Goody Two-shoes."

"Well, I declare!" said Pet. "If I wasn't the patientest, best-tempered little girl in Maryland, I wouldn't put up with all this abuse. Not even my nose is allowed to escape; and it never injured you or anybody else in its life."

And Pet, with a deeply-wounded look, ran her finger along the insulted proboscis, as if to soothe its injured feelings.

"Will you tell me fortune, Mother Two-Shoes?" said Ray, turning round. "I am particularly anxious to know the future."

"Well, you needn't be, then," said Goody, snappishly; "for it has nothing good in store for a miserable scapegoat like you. I won't tell it; but I will tell that little gal's," pointing to Erminie, who all the time had been quietly looking on, not knowing whether to laugh or be afraid, and wholly puzzled by it all. "She gave me some breakfast; and 'one good turn deserves another,' as the Bible says. Give me your hand."

Afraid of offending the old lady, Erminie held it out.

"You'll be rather a nice-looking young woman, if you don't grow up ugly," began the seeress, looking intently at the little white palm that lay in hers like a lily-leaf; "and will have some sense, if not more, unless you get beside yourself, as most young gals nowadays mostly do. It's likely you'll be married to somebody, some time; very likely the first letter of his name will be Ranty Lawless, who, by that time, will be one of the nicest young men you or anybody else will ever see. If he makes you his wife—which is a blessing you ought to pray for every day—don't forget to learn to make slap-jacks and Johnny-cake, two things that good young is very fond of, as I am given to understand. As he will probably be away up there among the big-wigs in Congress every day, don't forget to give him your blessing; and a paper of sandwiches every morning before he starts; and meet him at night, when he returns, with a smile on your lip and a cup of tea in your hand. By following these directions, an unclouded future will be yours, and you will probably be translated, at last, in a cloud of fire and brimstone, and your virtues inscribed on a pewter-plate, as an example for all future generations."

"What an enviable fate, Erminie!" exclaimed Ray.

"Seems to me, old lady, our Ranty's a great bother to you," said Pet, suspiciously, as she fixed her bright, searching eyes keenly on her face.

"I always take an interest in nice youths," said the old woman, rising and grasping her stick, preparatory to starting. "I guess I won't mind staying for dinner. I'll call some other day, thankie."

"Not so fast, Goody Two-Shoes," exclaimed Ray, coolly catching the old woman by the collar. "I've discovered you, at last. 'Off, ye lendings!'"

And to the horror of Erminie, he grasped the cloak and tore it off, spite of the vigorous struggles of the beldame. Then followed the hat, and red handkerchief, and the venerable gray locks; and Erminie stifled a scream as she fancied head and all was coming. The bushy gray eyebrows came off, too, and the bright, handsome, mischievous face of Master Ranty Lawless stood revealed.

(To be continued—commenced in No. 290.)

The Prairie Rover:

OR,
THE ROBIN HOOD OF THE BORDER.

BY BUFFALO BILL,
AUTHOR OF "DEADLY-EYE, THE UNKNOWN SCOUT," ETC.

CHAPTER VIII.
THE MYSTERIOUS HORSEMAN.

THE SUN was yet some distance from the western horizon, when the scout arrived at the motte, situated upon the banks of a small stream, and where years before a small outpost had been established, but which, alas! had met with a sad fate, as its occupants had all fallen beneath the tomahawk and scalping-knife of the red-men.

Cautiously advancing into the timber, with his eyes searchingly invading every covert, and his nerves strung for action, should there be an enemy ambushed within, he soon felt assured that Captain Raymond and his band had not yet arrived.

He was preparing to stake Comrade out to feed upon the luxuriant grass, and had removed his saddle to better rest him, when there was a sound of something coming slowly through the underwood, but whether a buffalo, deer, or an enemy, he knew not.

Turning rapidly, he was about to replace his saddle, when a horse and rider dashed suddenly upon the scene, and at the same moment the eyes of the scout and the stranger met, the former with a gaze of wondering surprise, the latter with a look of fear.

The scout had seized his rifle and stood ready for action, but quickly the weapon was lowered, for before him, mounted upon a clean-limbed and thoroughbred-looking bay mare, was a young girl, scarcely eighteen years of age.

Her hair was black as the raven's plume, long, silken, and hung in massive braids down her back and rested upon her horse.

Her eyes were exceedingly large, lustrous, and with long, drooping lashes, while every feature was perfect, and the ruby lips, slightly parted, showed the teeth as white as pearls.

The complexion was that of a brilliant brunette, browned still deeper by the sun and wind, and in her cheeks glowed the hue of perfect health.

She was attired in a closely-fitting riding-habit of fashionable manufacture, of navy-blue, trimmed with silver buttons, wore on her hand gauntlet gloves, and a light, slouch hat, encircled by a silver cord, and shaded by a rich, black ostrich feather, was upon her head, while her steed was equipped with a horse-hair bridle, immense silver bit, and side-saddle covered with buck-skin, ornamented with beads and quill-work.

Instinctively the scout raised his sombrero, and at his movement the lips of the beldame, who parted in a low order, her hand drew a silver-mounted pistol from a saddle-pocket, and away dashed the handsome mare, almost riding the scout down as she swept by.

"In Heaven's name, who is that girl, and where have I seen that face before?"

"What can she be doing here, alone upon the prairie, and in an Indian country?"

"Doubtless she belongs to some wagon-train, and is lost; but I remember of no emigrant train being expected here now."

"Who can she be? that's the question."

"At any rate I'll never discover by remaining here, and yonder she goes like mad across the prairie, doubtless believing me an enemy."

"Come, Comrade, we must give chase."

Bounding into his saddle, the next moment the scout was flying in full pursuit across the prairie, about three hundred yards behind the swiftly running steed ridden by the maiden.

"Come, Comrade, yonder light-heeled nag shows you the road, a thing no other animal on the frontier can do; by Heaven, she is leaving us, old fellow! Come!" and the scout urged on his mustang, as glancing behind her, the maiden was seen to suddenly cause her mare to quicken her speed.

"Well, well, well! Comrade, you are doing your best, and the bay still creeps away from you," and with a look of disappointment at the sinking sun, and remembering his appointment, Prairie Rover applied the spurs to his horse, and, smarting with pain and rage at the unexpected treatment, bounded madly forward in pursuit.

But useless his mighty efforts; the bay slowly drew further and further ahead, until, after a half-hour's race, the scout reluctantly relinquished the attempt, and wheeling Comrade to the right-about, once more headed for the motte, ever and anon glancing behind him, and observing that the maiden still continued her rapid flight, until ere long the horse and rider appeared a mere speck upon the prairie.

Surprised at meeting such a strange creature in the motte, and wondering at her remarkable appearance and conduct, Prairie Rover searched every portion of the timber on foot for some clue to guide him in clearing up the mystery; but he at length gave up his task as fruitless, and after looking to the comfort of Comrade, threw himself down to rest, ere the coming of the band of troopers.

When he awoke, darkness was upon the prairie, and a long line of horsemen were visible, coming toward the timber, whom the scout recognized as the military squadron.

Ten minutes more he had warmly greeted Captain Raymond and his men, and retiring into the deeper recesses of the timber, the whole party sought shelter within the ruined walls of the stockade, which concealed the light of the camp-fires.

With but little adventure, Ramsey Raymond and his men had reached the motte, capturing and killing several Indians who had crossed their path, and the young officer congratulated the scout upon the success of the expedition thus far.

Prairie Rover then made known his having sent Wild Wolf to the fort, with news of the departure of the Prairie Robin Hood and his red allies, and then he told him of his mysterious adventure with the lovely horsewoman in the motte; but Ramsey could give him no information regarding her, and they appealed to the men for information.

All seemed in the dark on the subject, except one old trapper, who declared to having himself seen the maiden, a year before, and his description of her proved to the scout that he was telling the truth.

"I've heard tell on the gal more than once, Prairie Rover, kase the Injuns has told me that they'd seen her, and they call her the Spirit of the Hills, 'cause you must know it's off yonder to the westward some forty miles or more, was where I see'd her, and they say she lives in the hill country; but you kin jist bet your bottom dollar she's no human gal, she nor her horse neither."

"Not as bad as that, Dave, I think; but I would like to know more of her, and I'll solve the mystery yet," replied the scout, with determination.

It was then decided between Prairie Rover and Captain Raymond that they would encamp in the timber until dark the following night, and that this would give the men and horses a chance for perfect rest for the arduous and dangerous duties before them, and accordingly sentinels were soon set, and the camp was soon lost in deep repose.

The following day was spent by the men in clearing up their fire-arms, looking to their horses, mending their equipments, and cooking rations for a week, after which duties they ate a substantial dinner, and betook themselves to sleep away the remaining hours until the moment for starting.

With the disappearance of the sun behind the western hills, the clear notes of the bugle echoed through the motte, blowing "boots and saddles," and as twilight crept over the prairie, the daring band fled slowly forth from their retreat, and with Prairie Rover and Captain Ramsey at their head, took up the trail for the Indian villages.

CHAPTER IX. THE RAID OF DEATH.

OVER the dark prairie, at an easy canter, the daring band pressed on, until at midnight they reached the rising land, and under the guidance of the scout they penetrated into the forest, and after three hours' longer ride drew rein at the head of a small valley.

Now they were within two miles of the large Sioux village of Chota, and we will rest and refresh ourselves and horses until daybreak," said the scout, dismounting and setting the example.

"Captain Raymond, the village below us numbers some two thousand souls, of whom doubtless two hundred are men, able to fight us."

"Thus my plan is for me to lead the advance with about thirty men, right into the village, while you follow after the lapse of ten minutes with thirty of your troopers."

"The remainder of the force can be divided into two parties, one under the trapper Dave to strike at once for the cattle corral to stampede all the ponies, and the other, under Lieutenant Hardcastle, to act as a reserve."

"When Dave has stampeded the cattle, he can then come up to our aid; and the lieutenant following him will cause a panic among the Indian camp, and cause them to believe our force much larger than it is."

"Also, let it be understood that we war only upon abled-bodied men, and not upon women, children or cripples."

"I agree with you, scout; I detest this wholesale slaughter urged against red-skins, even though they are cruel savages."

"How long will you remain in the village, scout?"

"Not more than long enough to burn their wigwams, and spread complete consternation, and then we will dash on to Chota, seven miles further up the valley, situated near a fall of the river, which will drown the noise of our attack here, and enable us to surprise them also."

"From Chota we will take up position on the hills, and after a rest will ride through the lower valley where there is an encampment of Dog Soldier Sioux, and some Cheyennes, who have joined the expedition against the settlements."

"During the night we will encamp in the hills, and the following day sweep around upon the tribes who are encamped upon the border of the prairie and hill-land, after which, under the cover of the following night, we must beat a hasty retreat."

"A well-organized plan, scout, and one which our daring and energy must carry out."

"Now we will acquaint Hardcastle, Dave and the men with the movements to be carried out, for already the eastern skies are getting gray."

A half-hour longer went by, and, divided into four parties, the command moved slowly down the valley, the detachment of the scout in advance, and consisting of the scouts, trappers, hunters, and a few friendly Indians of the Pawnee tribe.

Unsuspecting evil, the village was lost in deep repose, excepting where here and there a firelight glimmered, proving that some early hunter was up preparing his humble breakfast before starting on the hunt to provide food for his dusky family.

Silently and ominously the scout led his detachment on until the first wigwams were near at hand; and then, with a burst of prolonged and terrific war-cries, they dashed into the village, spreading terror and consternation around them.

Panic-stricken, the red protectors of the camp rushed forth from their homes, to be shot down instantly, while the cries of frightened squaws and papooses rent the air with heartrending wails.

Presently the torch was applied, and the flames began to make sad havoc with the village, while the shouts and shots of the party who had attacked the cattle corral were heard mingling with the war-whoops of the Indians and battle-cries of the scout and his men.

In every direction then scattered hundreds of frightened mustangs, flying through the village, and adding new terror to the Indians, while dashing up with his force, Captain Raymond joined in the carnival of battle.

Upon all sides the red warriors fell in defense of their homes, many of them defenseless, for in their confusion they could find no arms, and believing the enemy ten times their real number, they fled in affright to the hillsides and forests, leaving their village in the possession of the pale-faces.

"Now for one grand sweep of destruction, and then, ere daylight is fairly upon us, we will away for Chota," cried the scout, who seemed to the men to be the very personification of reckless courage, while, after seeing him in battle, the reputation he had won did not surprise them.

Dashing through the village, the scout called a halt, and discovered that, though the enemy had lost scores of warriors killed, only half a dozen of his men were missing, and with a cheer at their success away the band dashed up the valley to carry the war into the village of Chota.

As Prairie Rover had said, the noise of a small waterfall drowned the sound of the attack upon Chota, and ere the surprised Indians were aware of the existence of a pale-war-whoop within a hundred miles, the wild, ringing and terror through many a red skin's heart.

"Give them no time to arm or rally, men! at them with a savage will!" cried Prairie Rover, and a burst of war-cries answered his words, and death held high carnival once more in the home of the red-man.

In the twinkling of an eye almost the village was in ruins, the ground strewn with dead warriors, and hundreds of squaws and papooses flying for safety to the hills.

"We have no time to tarry now, as the Dog Soldiers and Cheyennes will be warned and be ready to meet us, so let us press our horses hard, and at once ride down the lower valley."

"All right, scout; you lead, and we will follow. We lost five good men in Chota, now to avenge them and their comrades who fell at Chota," replied Captain Ramsey Raymond, and with a loud cheer the destroying human whirlwind swept on, the horses dripping with foam and covered with dust, but urged on for life and death.

Notwithstanding an alarm given by some of the fugitives from Chota, the Dog Soldier Sioux were not prepared to meet their foe, but took safety in flight, leaving their village to fall into the hands of the whites.

A few brave warriors, however, determined to sell their lives dearly, and the death of several troopers was the result; but in compact mass the band rushed on, and the Indian camp was a scene of desolation and death.

A village of savage Cheyennes then fell beneath the anger of the pale-faces, the braves, driven to despair, fighting bravely for their homes, and dropping a number of white horsemen from their saddles.

But the march of the attacking band was irresistible, and their track was one of ruin and bloodshed.

Having captured the village, the scout ordered a retreat to the hills near by, carrying with them large quantities of Indian plunder, loaded upon horses taken from the corral.

Once in the hills, the party halted to rest, and those horses that were broken down were exchanged for the best mustangs captured from the Indians.

Night coming on, strong detachments of guards were stationed against surprise, for the Indians would attack them, the scout felt assured, if they could rally their different warriors in time.

But, excepting a few stray shots, fired by some prowling brave, the night passed quietly away, and with the first glimmer of light the band moved off to continue its work of ruin against the prairie border villages of the red-skins.

Then the foresight of the scout, in ordering the shooting of all the mustangs that were not stamped, was seen, for although the Indians had assembled in large numbers to attack the whites, very few of them were mounted, and could not follow upon their trail with sufficient speed to keep them in sight.

By noon the prairie was reached, and the bands of hunting Indians were attacked with irresistible force, before there was a chance of resistance, for they had never looked for danger from pale-faces in that direction, and being some thirty miles distant from the villages of Chota and Chota, they had not known of the ruin that had fallen upon them.

Another long day of carnage, and satiated with their bloody work, the band of whites struck forth over the prairie, and with weary steps headed for the motte, wherein was situated the ruined outpost.

As the last lingering rays of the setting sun fell from the summit of the distant hills, the scout glanced behind him, and what he discovered proved that the greatest danger of the daring raid of death was yet to be met and overcome.

CHAPTER X. THE FORLORN HOPE.

THE sight that the scout discovered behind him, was one that was calculated to make the stoutest heart quail, for just setting forth from the base of the hills was a confused mass of

Indian warriors, some mounted, but mostly on foot, and directing their course upon the trail of the pale-faces.

Fully outnumbering the band, five to one, and with his animals so jaded that they could hardly be urged faster than a walk, the scout felt that they were compelled to halt for a night's rest in the motte, and that by morning the Indians would have come up and surrounded them, and their only way of escape would be to cut bravely through their lines.

"We are in a hot place, Captain Raymond," laughed the scout, as he pointed toward the hills.

"Yes, but it is no worse than I expected; in fact we have escaped well, with the loss of only twenty-five poor fellows; but it is owing to your dash and courage, scout, for we were upon the villages before they could resist."

"But what would you advise?"

"To seek the ruined stockade, and prepare ourselves for a fight, for the Indians may attack us to-night."

"If not, we will have had a good night's rest, and thus refreshed, the horses will carry us bravely through their lines, and there are too few of them mounted to cause us much trouble when once we get clear of the motte."

"Yet, infuriated as they are, they may storm us to-night, so we must hasten on and set our house in order for the coming of our guests."

The scout spoke lightly of the danger, but all felt that it was very great, and urging forward their tired steeds the motte was soon reached, and ere darkness came on, the band was strongly fortified in the old stockade.

Contrary to their expectations the night passed quietly away, and the sun arose to discover no Indian visible.

But creeping from the stockade, the scout bent his way toward the edge of the motte, and after an absence of a half hour returned, his face showing no sign of discovery to their disadvantage.

"Well, Prairie Rover, what have you seen?" cried Captain Raymond, advancing toward him.

"That we have succeeded most thoroughly in this expedition, captain."

"I know it, and we'll all be lions when we get back."

"If we get back; but I must not delay telling you."

"First, my messenger has informed the Indians who went against the settlements, that their own homes have been visited by the torch and sword, and out upon the prairies, some three miles, is the entire force of Sioux and their allies, who returning in haste were met by the party pursuing us."

"Slowly they are arranging their plans which are to surround us in our stronghold, and for us to attempt to cut through their lines would be certain death."

"What is to be done then, scout?" coolly asked the young captain.

"I see but one plan, and that is to stand a siege."

"We have only a week's provisions, and with no chance of success."

"Horse-flesh is most palatable when one has nothing else, captain."

"But you must stand a siege; the stockade is strong, you have tried men and true, and plenty of ammunition to beat back the entire force of red-skins if they were to storm you."

"In four days, or less, I can return with reinforcements from the fort."

"You!—how will you leave the motte?"

"I'll dash through their lines, which are not formed fully yet, and Comrade can carry me away from their fleetest horses."

"True, he showed no sign of fatigue yesterday, when all of the other horses were fagged out; but there are swift horses in Robin Hood's band."

By Heaven! that horse fairly flies!
See, see! he will make it—he will! he will!
Such were the cries from the men in the
mote, as they narrowly watched the progress
of the scout, and then a wild yell of joy burst
from the timber as they saw Prairie Rover
rush in between the two columns, his rifle flash-
ing right and left upon his enemies, still two
hundred yards distant.

Warrior after warrior fell as the leaden hail
was poured into the crowded ranks, but on they
pressed, pouring in a shower of arrows and
rifle-bullets as they came.

As though bearing a charmed life, the scout
and his noble steed remained unhurt, dashing
across the line, and with a yell from Prairie
Rover that was heard at the motive, the flying
steed bounded away on the open prairie, fol-
lowed by a hundred Indian horsemen.

But Comrade was no ordinary steed, and his
swift flight soon distanced the smaller mus-
tangs of the warriors, and in an hour had left
them far behind, as, unhurt, horse and rider
sped on, having successfully escaped in the
forn hope, and with every chance of soon
bringing aid from the fort to rescue Captain
Raymond and his gallant band.

CHAPTER XI. THE PRAIRIE ROBIN HOOD.

UPON the evening of the arrival of the In-
dian forces in front of the settlement, and when
the white renegade chief was planning his at-
tack against his own race, there suddenly darted
into the outlaw camp an Indian messenger,
his horse showing signs of hard riding, and
even his red-skin rider exhibiting in his stern
face a look of fatigue.

It was near the sunset hour, and the white
chief and his red allies were holding a council
of war beneath a huge tree where Robin Hood
had halted and made his headquarters.

The steed, a large sorrel stallion, with a
build denoting extraordinary speed and bot-
tom, was grazing near by, loose, while his
bride, accoutrements, and a silver-mounted
Mexican saddle, with its broad horn, lay at
the base of the tree.

Leaning against the trunk of the tree, his
arms folded upon his broad breast, and his
whole attitude one of perfect ease and grace,
was the man who had won the name of the
Prairie Robin Hood.

Six feet in height, he was of a magnificent
physique, and beneath the closely-fitting pants
of dressed buck-skin, and blue flannel shirt, his
form gave indication of great strength, agility,
and powers of endurance.

Cavalry boots incased his feet, the tops
reaching to his knees, and the heels armed with
silver spurs, while upon his head he wore a
soft, gray-felt hat, looped up upon the left side
with a gold arrow, and with a black plume
drooping over the brim.

A broad belt encircled his small waist, and
upon either hip was a handsomely-mounted
revolver, while in front, and ready for the
clutch of either hand, were a bow-knife and
double-barreled pistol of exceedingly large
bore and fine sight.

Hanging to the belt, upon the left side, and
attached by a red-skin cord, was a small,
gleaming battle-axe, with a long handle, and a
weapon which the chief had been known to use
with terrible effect in battle.

Having described the general appearance of
the noted Robin Hood, his face certainly de-
serves mention, for it was one that once seen
could not be forgotten.

The eyes were as changeable in expression
as an April day, being at times cruelly bitter,
again savage in their fierceness, and then
touchingly sorrowful; but at all times they
were searching and restless in their look.

The forehead was high, bold, intellectual,
and the dark, iron-gray hair, combed directly
back, fell to his shoulders in wavy masses,
while his beard, reaching to his belt almost,
was also tinged with silver threads, though the
face appeared to be that of a man under
forty.

The month was forbiddingly stern, sneering
and cruel, and the whole expression that of a
man who feared neither God nor human being,
and felt that he was an outcast upon the face
of the earth.

Years before the man had drifted upon the
frontier, coming from the far south-west, it
was said, and with a reckless band of a dozen
followers at his heels, men like himself, devot-
ing their lives to crime.

At first the chief devoted himself to the life
of a highwayman, living in some secret recess
of the forest, and demanding toll from all
passers through his dominions.

Ever polite to his victims, and most courte-
ous to women, whom he never robbed, and
never taking from a man his every cent, he
soon won the name of the Prairie Robin Hood.

But at last the military were on his path,
the country became aroused at some more dan-
gerous deed, and he was hunted down, and after
a terrible struggle, made prisoner by Colonel
Vernon, but not until he had shot three sol-
diers dead, and was himself severely wounded.

He was tried at once by military court, and
sentenced to be hung, as soon as he recovered
from his wounds; but the night previous to
the day appointed for his execution he escaped
from his log prison, and the next morning the
sentinel who guarded him was found dead be-
fore the door, but without one mark of vio-
lence upon him, while upon his face remained
a look of mortal terror, as though some un-
earthly visitant had appeared before him.

A year passed away after the escape of the
Robin Hood of the Prairies, and then he sud-
denly reappeared on the border, at the head of
a formidable band of renegades, and from that
day his cruelty toward his fellow man seemed
to know no bounds, for the armed and the
defenseless everywhere fell beneath his deadly
hated.

Such was the Prairie Robin Hood, and one
gazing into his face as he leaned with folded
arms against the tree, listening to the war-talks
of the Indian chiefs, Brave Shield, Big Whis-
tler, and Tall Bull, could not but feel that his
dark and handsome face hid behind its cruel
mask some deep and damning mystery of
crime and low honor.

"The chiefs talk like women, and would
palaver for hours like a gang of old women at
a tea-drinking."

"Let them hold on to their rattling tongues,
lest the birds of the woods understand them,
and carry the tidings of our coming to the
settlers," and Robin Hood spoke in a stern and
sneering voice.

"What would our white brother have?"
sulkily returned Brave Shield.

"I would have you get your red outthroats
ready to march upon the settlement with the
coming of dark; let the whole band follow in
my lead, and I will radden the prairies with
the blood of the pale-faces," savagely returned
the white chief.

"The great chief speaks well, and his red
brothers shall fringe their bolts with pale-face
scalls, and fill their wigs with pale-face
squaws," said Tall Bull, his eyes glowing in
anticipation of his evil designs.

"You lay your accursed and bloody claws
upon the head or form of a white woman, and
I'll tear with my own hand your scalp from
your skull," cried the white chief, his eyes
flashing fire.

Instantly the Indian warriors were upon
their feet, their hands upon their weapons,
but, undismayed, Robin Hood stood before
them, an evil glitter in his eyes.

"What! has our white brother turned trait-
or?" asked Big Whistler, after a pause.

"I will never be a traitor to a woman, even
though I practice hellish barbarities upon men.
No, you red devils, I lead you against the
settlement to kill and make captive the men,
and to carry off what plunder you can; but,
so help me the Great Spirit, if one woman, or
child, dies by the hand of a red-skin inten-
tionally, I'll turn my renegade bloodhounds
upon you, and aid the white warriors in driv-
ing you to your haunts."

The Prairie Robin Hood spoke in a tone that
proved he was in deadly earnest, and evil
looks were going the rounds of the Indians'
faces, and a storm was threatening, when sud-
denly a horseman dashed swiftly into the
midst of the party.

"Hail, what brings the Comanche Wild
Wolf here now, when he skulked to the prairie
when we took the war-path?" tauntingly
said the white chief.

"The Wild Wolf is no skulking dog; he has
been on the war-path of the pale-face war-
riors, and has come to tell his red brothers
that the brave from the fort are now laying
in ashes their happy villages in the hills."

A yell of terror, of rage and despair, went
up from the assembled chiefs at this news; but
the stern voice of Robin Hood checked their
cries.

"Who is it, my red brothers, that brings
this news?"

"A stranger chief, a Comanche dog, a friend
of the pale-faces."

"The Comanche lies."

With a yell of fury the Wild Wolf threw
himself from the back of his steed and rushed
upon the white chief, his knife glittering in
his hand.

But a dozen strong arms seized and held him
back, and powerless, he cried:

"Red brothers, the tongue of the Wild Wolf
is not crooked; he speaks straight; the pale-
faces are now in their happy homes."

"If my red brothers doubt the Wild Wolf,
let them bear him back a prisoner, and then
burn him at the stake."

The words and manner of the Comanche
carried conviction with them, and again al-
most inhuman yells filled the air, while in hot
haste the Indians began to mount, no longer
thinking of attacking the settlements while
their own homes and families were in danger.

In vain Robin Hood pleaded with them to
continue on and devastate the settlement; his
words were unheeded, and in a short while the
whole band of warriors departed, leaving the
angry and disappointed Robin Hood alone
with his squadron of renegades.

But, undaunted by the desertion of his allies,
the daring chief determined to himself strike a
blow against the settlement, and with what
plunder he could secure dark back to his
stronghold in the hills, distant nearly three
days' journey from the fort.

With this determination, he called his men
around him, made known his intended plans,
and at nightfall the band was upon the move,
slowly approaching the happy homes of the
hardy pioneers of the frontier.

(To be continued—commenced in No. 293.)

Idaho Tom,

THE YOUNG OUTLAW OF SILVERLAND!
BY OLL COOMES.

CHAPTER XXV.
IDAHO TOM AND THE MAD TRAPPER ON THE
MOVE.

By a dim fire that burned on the hearth of
the Mad Trapper's cabin, sat the old border-
man himself and Idaho Tom.

Without it was night, black and gloomy.
The door of the cabin was closed and barred.
The little window also had been fastened up,
and every available point strengthened and
guarded with extreme care, as though danger
was apprehended.

"Yes, yes," the trapper was saying, when
we intrude upon the privacy of their conver-
sation, "the days of peace are all over with
hereabouts, Thomas. Old Molock has been
stirred up, and he in turn has stirred up the
red-skins."

"And one might as well stir up a hornet's
nest," added Idaho Tom.

"Yes, the condemned vagrants are mean
and devilish; and they're swarming over from
the foot-hills like musketeers. Shouldn't wonder
if we'd be driven out o' here in less than a
week."

"But I can't see, for the life of me, why—"
began Tom, but his words were here cut short
by a clicking sound starting suddenly up in
the big pine chest in the corner to the left of
the fire-place.

The old trapper started to his feet, and
glancing toward Tom, at the same time assum-
ing an attitude of intense listening, raised his
finger as if to enjoin silence upon the lips of his
companion.

The clicking in the corner lasted for only a
moment or two.

"Well, if I must, I must; for I won't ask
you to go out," the trapper said to his com-
panion, as he turned and advanced toward the
chest. Reaching it, he inserted a key, turned
it, and then lifted the lid, revealing to the as-
tonished gaze of the youth a telegraphic bat-
tery.

"I thought so from the first night I said
here, friend Dee," the youth said, pointing to
the instrument.

"I loved you'd hear the thing click; but
then it's no use keepin' a secret from a friend,"
replied the trapper, with an air of philosophi-
cal gravity. "That, Tom, is an undelivered,
galvane, lightning-gear telegraph machine; and
I'm the child that fingers this end of the
communicatin' thingum-bob. Zoe Leland I'm
ed me to play on it. It's connected with the
floatin' island on the bay, over a mile distant.

I war called jist now, and I'm goin' to answer.
Here," and he adjusted the connecting wire,
and thumbed off the word in a twinkling.

The next instant the battery began a rapid
clicking. Dee stood with his head partly
turned, listening closely to catch every word;
and Tom noticed, as the sound continued, that
the trapper's face assumed a painful expres-
sion.

At length the sound ceased. Zedekiah drew
a long, heavy breath, and glancing toward
Tom, exclaimed:

"My God, Tom!"

"What is it, Zed?"

"Zoe Leland is a captive!"

Tom groaned in spirit.

"Who captured her, Zed?" he asked.

"Wait a minute, and I'll find out."
Zed asked the question over the wire.

"An Indian, they say," Dee replied, after
receiving an answer. "They don't know how
he ever got to the island, but long before night
he got there somehow or other, and carried
her off in one of their own canoes. Strikes me
as being a queer thing, Tom."

"Why haven't we known this sooner?"

"Because we haven't been here, nor down
to the bay. Leland says he's been tryin' to
git me here for four long hours, and you see
we've only been here a little while. That ex-
plains the hull thing."

"Well, what's to be done?"

"We're wanted at the island, right away.
It is being besieged by a hundred red-skins
that seem bent on its kapter. Leland says
we'll have to approach with great caution."

"Is any one in pursuit of Zoe's captors, did
he say?"

"I'll ask," said the trapper-operator, finger-
ing the instrument rapidly.

The answer was soon flashed back.
"Frank Casleton and a friend are in pursuit.
The rest of the Boy Hunters are here on the
island, fighting nobly for us."

A look of disappointment clouded Tom's
face, and, in a bitter tone, he replied:

"I dare say that curse of this land, Mat
Molock, the Wolf-Herder, has got her in his
den ere this. And if so, what can two boys
do toward rescuing her? My opinion is that Zoe
Leland is lost."

"It may be, Thomas, but let us hope for the
best till we are positive. But, Tom, will you
go to the island with me now?"

"I hardly know what to do—whether to
strike out for Molock's quarters, and lend my
aid to rescue Zoe, or go down to the bay."

"Tom," said Dee seriously, "I verily be-
lieve that you are in love with Zoe Leland."

Tom blushed, but finally stammered out:
"I am not ashamed of the truth, friend Dee.
I do love Zoe Leland with all my heart, and
have from the hour I first saw her. My love
told me that the boy Albert, who came here
that memorable night, was Zoe in disguise,
notwithstanding your efforts to deceive me in
the matter."

The old trapper smiled, sadly, and replied:
"I believe you could see through a mill-
stone, Tom, if you recognized Zoe in her dis-
guise that night. But then, I alers believed
you loved that girl. She's a cherubim, Tom,
if that were even on earth. She's good
enough, purty enough and sweet enough for
an angel to marry, I do solemnly believe."

"That's what I'm afraid of—that she is too
good for a young vagabond like me."

"Heavens, listen!" It was the old trapper
that uttered the exclamation.

The sullen boom of a cannon rolled up from
the lake and burst forth anew in a hundred
mountain echoes.

"They're having it hot and heavy down
there," said Tom, with a nervous start.

"Let's git ready and go down," replied Dee;
"that say you, Thomas?"

"I am ready for anything, Zed," answered
Tom.

The two secured their weapons and plunged
out into the night.

The sky was overcast, and a dense fog hung
over the valley and hills.

Down the gloomy pass the two men turned
their faces, and moved with hasty footsteps.

They hurried on in silence for some distance,
when Idaho Tom finally said:

"Zedekiah, I must admit that the past
month has been the most eventful one of my
life."

"Why so, Tom?" asked the borderman.

"Because I have been completely puzzled
and mystified all the time."

"Well, what about?"

"Things around Tahoe; the secret connect-
ed with the floating island and other things,
down to your connection with the whole."

"Don't let that, this, or anything bother
your brain now, Tom," replied Dee. "I'll
explain everything one of these days. I know
things you speak of look queer to a stranger,
but then, it is the object of those interested in
the matter that they should wear an air of
mystery so as to keep the red-skins away.
But, dang 'em, they don't 'pear to skeer worth
a Continental. Rest assured, Tom, that that is
nothin' wrong about any of this apparent mys-
tery that puzzles you."

"But, Dee, those two men that we buried
the other day were friends of yours, were they
not?"

"Wal, ya-as, they war, Tom," the trapper
replied, with some hesitation.

"And were they not down to Virginia City,
not very long ago?" questioned Tom.

"Yes, a few days after they war killed by
the red heathens. But I should think you
knowed all about that, Tom," was the response,
that started Tom slightly.

"Why should I, Zed?"

"Cause, didn't you play poker with them?"

"Yes, I believe I did."

"And didn't they scoop you outen a dia-
mond ring?"

"Yes, they did; and I saw that ring to-day
on Zoe Leland's finger."

"The boys give it to her, for it was her moth-
er's ring, that she prized very dearly."

"Indeed!" exclaimed Tom, in the deepest
surprise.

"It was taken from her," Zedekiah contin-
ued, "but two or three months ago by the
road-agents, while passing through Purgatory
valley in the stage-coach. And, Tom, its be-
ing in your possession looked a little suspicious.
The matter was placed in the hands of detec-
tives to work out in hopes of gettin' the rest of
the jewelry taken at the same time, also, to
watch you, and find out your headquarters and
capter the hull caboodle. But, Tom, I never
believed you war a road-agent, and so that's
jist why I've told you what I have."

"I thank you very much for telling me,
Zed; but does Zoe know that your friends won
the ring from me at poker?"

"Yes."

Tom sighed regretfully, and after a mo-
ment's silence responded:

"Zed, I tell you I am no road-agent nor rob-
ber. That ring was given me by the clerk of
the 'Ophir Exchange,' in consideration of a
valuable service rendered him. He told me
at the time that it had been pawned at the sa-
loon for a keg of whiskey, but, as it was not
redeemed within the stipulated time, it be-
came the clerk's property."

"I believe you, Tom—every word you have
told me, and shall to the last. But, lad, as we
are now comin' near the lake, we'd better look a
leetle out for red-skins."

"How are we going to get over to the isl-
and when we get to the bay, Zed?"

"Trust that part to me, Tom," replied the
trapper.

The two moved on now in silence, and soon
came to the margin of the woods skirting the
bay. Within the shadows they paused and
glanced out upon the beach. The moon, peep-
ing through the clouds just then, showed them
a number of shadowy forms moving along the
shore to the right and left of their position.

"Dar'n't make a break here," Zedekiah
whispered.

Keeping within the shadows, they stole
around to the south-west side of the bay, and
again paused and listened. All was silent here.
The Indians appeared to have concentrated
their force all on the north-east side of the bay.
At least, this was the surmise of Zed and Tom,
founded upon the extreme silence that prevail-
ed along this part of the shore; to their sur-
prise, however, they were suddenly startled
by a low moan.

Tom uttered a low exclamation of surprise,
while the Mad Trapper chuckled as if with
suppressed laughter.

Looking through the parted foliage before
them, both saw a red-skin seated in a canoe,
writhing and shuddering in all the agonies of
death.

"Ah! friend trapper!" exclaimed Tom, in
a dry, husky tone, "it is a savage fast in that
infernal machine, one of the mysteries of Tahoe!"

CHAPTER XXXVI.
A COLLISION ON THE LAKE.

AGAIN the old trapper chuckled with delight
over Tom's exclamation.

"Boy," he said, "be you afraid of that ca-
noe?"

"I am not superstitious, but I can't ac-
count for the mysterious power with which
that craft seems endowed," replied the youth.

"Wal, if we go to the island we'll have to
go in that very skiff, Tom."

"Never! I've been there, Zed."

The trapper's tall form shook with suppress-
ed laughter.

"I'll work it, Tom," he finally replied. "I
think I know what ails the durned thing."

"Well, I darsay you do," declared the
boy.

"Come along then, my lad."

Out on to the open beach glided the border-
man, and close behind him followed Idaho
Tom.

The moon was again hidden behind a cloud
and darkness hung over the face of all.

The two moved down to the water's edge,
and found that the enchanted skiff was out
some ten or fifteen feet from shore. The sa-
vage seemed conscious of their approach, and
endeavored to liberate himself from his ago-
nizing position, but all in vain.

The Mad Trapper waded into the water and
hauled the canoe ashore. Then he stepped
into it, and catching the savage by the girdle
jerked him up out of the seat.

The act liberated him from his helpless position, and with an ap-
parent cry of delight the savage sprung from
the skiff and bounded away into the woods.

The Mad Trapper roared with laughter.

"I'd laugh, too, if I could see the point,"
said Tom, in perplexity.

"Wal, I reckon it is a sockdolager to them
as don't understand science; but the nub of
the hull thing is right here, Thomas. Under this
seat is a galvanic battery of great power, the
poles, which are slender wires, attached to
each of these oars right where the hands grasp
them. Here, you can feel 'em."

Tom stepped into the craft, and upon exam-
ination found that there was a wire running
from the extremities of the box, which com-
posed the oarsman's seat, up to the row-locks,
thence along the under side of the oar to the
end where the hand was fastened upon it.

"Now then," continued the trapper, "you
might grab one of these oars and hold it till
doomsday and it wouldn't affect you; and you
might grasp it with both hands and it wouldn't
harm ye if ye stood up, but if ye'd set down
on that box-lid, then you'd catch goss; for the
box is so constructed that as soon as one sets
down on it an electric current is turned on,
and the heavier the man, the stronger the cur-
rent. And once a hold of the plagued thing
it's purty hard to let up without help, or less
ye know how to work it. But an Injun will
pull away at the oars, and that makes it all
the worse on him. That's all that's 'bout it,
Tom. But if you want it 'lustrated take this
seat."

"No, thanks, my gay old philosopher. As
I said before, I have had a taste of your infer-
nal nerve-tiring machine, and I don't care
about trying it again. I have heard of gal-
vanic batteries, but never have seen one, nor
had any idea of their mysterious power, else I
might have mistrusted the truth of the mat-
ter. But of all the ideas, this one gets me.
What in wonder can be the object in it, any-
how?"

Dee raised the box-lid and threw the ap-
paratus out of gear, then seating himself upon
the box, seized the oars and drove the skiff
rapidly out into the bay. When some rods
from the shore he said:

"You asked me what object that is in this
outfit; it is to keep Ingins and boys from
botherin' the skiff when one comes ashore and
leaves it to look around awhile."

"Well, it's a capital contrivance, I must
frankly admit, Zed; and—"

His words were here cut short by a cannon-
ball that came screaming through the air so
close to their heads that both Tom and Zed
dozed like ducks.

"By the ghost of Caesar! that war a close
shave, friend trapper," exclaimed the youth.

"I guess they think we're enemies," said
Dee; "but fur the life of me, I can't see how
they tell in this confounded fog who's on the
lake at all, and who arn't."

"Maybe they were jist trying to skeer the
red-skins away, for it is impossible to see any-
thing creeping through this fog—heavens!"

Crash went the prow of their swift-moving
skiff into the side of a canoe whose presence
there was unknown, so deep and dense were
the mist and gloom.

A cry of terror went up from the lips of the
unknown party; the shrill, sharp voice of a
woman was heard.

The next moment the unfortunate voyagers
were foundering and struggling in the waves.

"Och! Mother av Moses!" cried one of
the crew, in a loud, excited voice, "the red devils
will kill us now!"

"Help me, Billy, for God's sake, with Zoe;
she is drowning!"

The voice of the speakers sounded familiar,
and their words told Tom and Zed of the pre-
dicament they were in.

"It's some of our friends, Zed!" exclaimed
Tom, peering into the gloom before them.

"Who be you there?" asked the trapper, in
a subdued tone, but the confusion made by
the swashing water drowned his voice.

He spoke louder.

"Oh, Blessed Virgin! and it's cold Torpe-

SWUNG OFF.

BY JOE JOY, JR.

The rosy Nan, that winsome thing,
Lifted hearted as a feather,
And I sat in that woodland swing
So cheerily together.

The green leaves rustled glad and gay;
Flowers at our feet were springing;
Her head upon my shoulder lay—
And it was blessed swinging!

As to and fro we airily went,
With souls so light and lifting,
It seemed that if the rope was rent
In air, we'd still go drifting.

She sweetly clung unto my arm;
Oh, happy, happy clinging!
I vowed I'd save her from all harm,
And kissed her, gently swinging.

And as we higher swung at last
It looked somewhat appalling,
I kept one arm about her waist
To hold the maid from falling.

I said, "It seems we're on the flight
Away from worldly weather,
As if toward some star of light
We're journeying together."

"And let me say here on this rope,
Whose strands should all be silken,
And reaching far and farther up
To heaven beyond the welkin—"

"Let me say what I never spoke:
Oh, Nan, I love you gladly!
And—here this time above us broke,
And down we tumbled madly."

Ah, luckless fall! To earth it dashed
Ourselves and all my fancies;
No bones broke, but my heart it smashed,
And utterly ruined Nan's—"

Because she said, in great disdain—
Her tones with anger ringing,
"I'll never speak to you again,
And never go a-swinging."

A RUSE DE GUERRE.

BY MARY REED CROWELL.

"You'd better make up your mind to do it, Frank. I give you my word for it, you'll find 'Laurelton' not a bad place, and the girls are—well, there are no finer girls than my granddaughters."

Old Judge Ransom looked earnestly over his gold-rimmed glasses at Frank Hazelton's handsome, indifferent face.

"You certainly are very good, Judge, to press upon me such a friendly invitation to visit 'Laurelton,' and under any other circumstances than those we have discussed, I would be delighted to accept. As it is—I confess I haven't the cheek to go down to your place, see my pretty second cousins, be entertained by aunt Sara, and all the while feel that my object, and your object, is to select me a wife from among the young ladies?"

"That's the sheerest nonsense, boy. Why on earth shouldn't you marry one of your cousins, and thereby secure 'Laurelton' in the family? Somebody'll get the fine old place with one of my girls—why shouldn't it as well be you?"

"I suppose you call yours a very sensible view of the case, Judge Ransom. But, how can a fellow expect to curb and harness his fancy and affection to suit—even with 'Laurelton' thrown in the bargain?"

"Who's talking of fancies and affection? I only asked you to run down to the homestead for the holidays and get acquainted with the girls; then, if you fall in love with one of them, well and good. There's not much danger but that they'll take to you, Frank. You're a fine fellow, and your five years' absence at the German universities add very greatly to your popularity."

"Thank you, Judge. Surely I ought to be grateful, and oblige you by falling in love with one of my charming cousins."

"Then we'll consider it settled, shall we? The Thursday before Christmas."

"I guess we'll manage it between us, Sara. Frank's agreed to come, and, what's more, has half-promised to fall in love with one of the girls."

Judge Ransom sat reading his village paper beside the cheery open grate; and fat, motherly Mrs. Ransom sat in her capacious chair, busily darning socks.

"Promised to fall in love with one of the girls! Henry, the idea! Who ever heard of such a thing? You never went and told him you wanted him to marry one of them?"

"Of course I did. There's nothing like being open and above-board. I like young Hazel, and told him so; and told him he was welcome to one of my granddaughters, and 'Laurelton' in the bargain."

"Well, Henry Ransom, I never would have believed you were such a fool! Don't you know you've ruined our little arrangement by going and telling him? Why, there's not a man living who'll take a fancy to a girl that is recommended to him! Well, if you aren't a ninny!"

"I can't see what I've done so dreadful. I'm sure you are as anxious to have him in the family as I am."

"Of course I am—and that is why I hate to see anything spoiled so. My word for it, Frank Hazelton is of too noble a nature to deliberately make love to a girl because she is rich; and, at the same time, I know he will take a dislike to 'em simply because he knows he is expected to do the other thing."

"Seems to me I have put my foot in it, Sara, according to your way of thinking. I am sure I meant well enough."

"Oh, I know that. Now, if you'll just leave it to me, and agree to do just what I say, I think it'll end all right, yet. Listen, now, and see if a woman can't beat even a judge in love affairs."

And he sat and listened, his fine face gradually broadening until it was one big smile from eyebrows to chin.

"If you don't deserve a diploma," he declared, jubilantly.

A magnificent December night, with myriads of frostily-twinkling stars above, and a snow-bound landscape below them; and Frank Hazelton, wrapped in his Astrachan overcoat, and his seal-skin cap cozily jammed over his forehead, thought, as he was driven from the depot to "Laurelton" behind the judge's fast trotters, and in the "Laurelton's" big double-seated, warmly-cushioned sleigh, that the lines might fall to a fellow in a far less pleasant place than that to which he was going; where the judge met him at the door, in the broad banner of warm yellow light streaming from within.

"Come right in, my boy—right in! You're as welcome as the first flowers in spring. Here's aunt Sara waiting to kiss you—aren't you, eh?"

Frank found himself in warm, motherly arms, and, laughing and joking, was escorted to the parlor, where four young girls were sitting in apparent ready welcome.

"What! have I four cousins! Judge, you've got the best of me. I had no idea my courage was to be put to such a test."

"Indeed, you needn't think you are so bless-

ed as to possess four pretty cousins. These are all you need lay claim to—Maud and Ida, my two dear granddaughters. These other two young ladies are Miss Florence and Irma Cloudesley—visiting 'Laurelton,' to assist in entertaining you."

After such an informal introduction, the ice was immediately broken; and, before the merry little circle broke up that night, Frank caught himself internally offering congratulations to himself that he had come to "Laurelton."

"Pretty girls—of course they're pretty, all of them," he soliloquized, mentally, as he carefully arranged his necktie, one bright, merry morning, a month after he had come to the farm house.

"There's Maud, with her matchless grace and her stately, dignified manner. She should wear a coronet and never feel but what the strawberry leaves were honored by her acceptance. But not for a thousand 'Laureltons' would I spend a lifetime with her; when an hour exhausts all her entertaining and instructive ability."

"I wonder what aunt Sara and the judge would think if they knew of my private opinion of Maud and Ida! To be sure Ida's a nice, ladylike little thing, and has about as much mind of her own as a butterfly. I doubt if she ever really does think beyond the arrangement of her pretty yellow hair, and the fit of those marvelously tiny slippers of hers."

From which it will be seen Mr. Frank Hazelton had been very observant.

"There's the Misses Cloudesley—sensible, intelligent girls as I ever saw; only Florence will persist in tyrannizing over dear little Irma—"

Then the dinner-bell abruptly dispelled his mental criticisms, and he went down, to find them all gone in but Irma Cloudesley, who, with a suspiciously fearful face, stood before the mirror. She started, half-guiltily, as he entered.

"Oh, I thought you had gone in. You're late, Mr. Hazelton."

"And so are you. What has kept you?" He saw the flush surge over her cheeks.

"I—oh—nothing—much."

"Has Flo been teasing you again?" He went close up to her, looking down into her face.

"No—nothing at all. Please go in to dinner, Mr. Hazelton."

She looked really distressed, he saw; but the headstrong fellow did not obey at all.

"I'll go, in a moment, Irma. Tell me first if you are angry with me that you seem so eager to get rid of me! Not only now, Irma, but always. You avoid me continually."

She blushed rosier than ever and turned her face away.

"No, Irma! you must answer me. Have I offended you?"

"No, Mr. Hazelton, you have not. Please go to dinner. They won't like it, and Maud will think—"

She hesitated, and looked painfully confused.

"Irma, I positively will not go to dinner until I know what is the matter with you, if I never eat a mouthful again. What will Maud think? What right has my cousin to think anything about what I do?"

"Oh, Mr. Hazelton—you—you are cruel to ask me. It was foolish in me to say a word."

"Every word you say is very sweet to me, little girl. Tell me why you dread Maud's knowing we are here, together! Tell me, Irma, or I shall—kiss you!"

"You know well enough," she faltered, desperately. "You know they all expect you will marry Maud, and—"

Frank laughed, and suddenly caught her in both his arms and kissed her.

"Don't struggle, Irma—you are my little darling, aren't you? You love me, don't you? Because I love you so very dearly, Irma! dear little Irma! Maud knows I never shall marry her, and I know I shall marry you, shan't I?"

"Oh, Frank!" She whispered it shyly, blissfully, as she looked into his handsome face. "You ought not to love me and lose 'Laurelton.' Indeed, indeed, I'm not worth so much."

"I consider myself the best judge of that, Miss Cloudesley! Perhaps you think, in your humility, that you are not more to me than ten thousand 'Laureltons.'"

"Am I really—am I, Frank?"

He kissed her over and over again.

"Shall we go to dinner—or, has your appetite vanished? Mine has, after such nectar as your kisses."

She laughed, then he saw her beautiful mouth begin to quiver.

"Frank—you won't be angry, will you? promise me! It wasn't my fault, truly, but grandma's."

She looked so wistfully at him, and her language was so puzzling, that he laughed outright.

"Angry?—never! Promise you?—any thing!"

She leaned her head forward, so he could not see her face.

"I am not Irma Cloudesley, but Irma Ransom. Sister Florence and I exchanged identities with Maud and Ida, who are really the Misses Cloudesley. So, after all, Frank, you shall have 'Laurelton'—if you will take it, will you—with me!"

That of course settled it, since Frank was so anxious to have Irma. And, so, after all, Aunt Sara's *ruse de guerre* accomplished the desired end, on the unalterable principle that she and the rest of us women understand, that men are stubborn creatures, who are sure to do just exactly contrary to the way you want them to do.

The Story of a Song.

BY ELEN E. REXFORD.

GRETCHEN leaned out of the window, in the moonlight, and listened. It was a beautiful night. The air was like etherealized silver, and the moon was like a new world in its white and shining splendor. The hills seemed like the hills of dreamland, and the mountains which showed so faintly against the pale, clear sky, made Gretchen think of the mountains she had thought of as belonging to the enchanted Land Max had told her about.

To her, as she leaned out of the window and listened, this most exquisite night of nights, with the subtle fragrance of mignonette and pansies floating up from the garden below to make the scene more like one of enchantment than it could have been without the odor of flowers in it, it seemed as if the whole world was enchanted ground. And she and Max were prince and princess therein, reigning supreme in the realm of love. She wondered if ever anybody's love-dream had been quite so sweet as theirs! Did ever any other maiden love her lover quite so well as she loved Max? And was ever a lover quite so brave and handsome and tender as Max? No! No! she thought

not. You see this Gretchen was like a thousand other Gretchen in the world, whose dream of love seems to them to fill the whole world with the sweetness and beauty of itself, and which their happy, foolish hearts tell them is the most complete of any love that ever was known. Theirs is the one perfect love the world will ever see.

One long, low note from a violin trembled on the still, silver air, and Gretchen's cheek was like a rose that has just blossomed, and her eyes were like two stars. At last she heard that which she had been listening for. Max was near her. But then, to her tender woman's heart, he was never far away.

The violin-player set the air a-quiver with melody, by the magic of his bow. It was a sweet and simple song without words; a tone poem that went to Gretchen's heart, and told her a thousand wonderfully pleasant things. She thought she had never heard anything so sweet before. What a wonderful fellow Max was! He had told her that he had composed a little air for her, and had hoped she would like it when he came to play it to her in the moonlight. Like it! Why! she had never heard music that touched her as this did. It was so full of thoughts that could not be caught in words! Such sweet thoughts, too! Who but Max would have thought of telling her these things? The little melody caught itself among her heart-strings, and tangled itself up there forever.

Then there was silence in the garden for a moment. Suddenly she turned and broke the white lily which had that morning opened its waxen chalice to catch the sunshine for the first time, from its stem, and dropped it over the casement to her lover.

"Max," she whispered. "I have nothing half so sweet to give you back in answer to your song, as this lily is. I have told it how much I loved you, and things that I haven't my words to tell with, and maybe it will tell them to you as you, music has told me beautiful things to-night. I have learned it all by heart. Listen, Max!"

She leaned out of the window, and sang his little song in a wordless way. She had caught it all. Not a note was missing.

"You like it, then, my Gretchen!" he cried, and his fair face was aglow with pleasure. "You shall make some words for it, and we will sing it together. It shall be our song—yours and mine, Gretchen, and no one else's. See, I wear your lily on my heart!"

"Oh, sweet, sweet dream! Oh, happy, happy hearts! Dream on of happy things while you may, for dreams are unsubstantial things, and the happiest hearts will soonest wake to sorrow."

In her little low attic room Gretchen sat, and stitched the laggard hours away, with a sorrowful, lonesome, homesick thought for every stitch she set. She had many lonesome thoughts to think of. There was a grave in the churchyard in the dear old fatherland, where her mother had been hidden from sight one summer day. That was a thing for sorrowful thoughts. Then there was the memory of the old home with, where she no longer. It seemed almost like giving up a friend to let it go, but there was no help for it. When she looked at this little room, in the hot, noisy tenement-house, her thoughts would go back to the old home, and she could smell the flowers in the little garden, and hear her mother's voice, and it filled her with unutterable longing; such dreary, homesick longing for what she could never have again.

And then—then was the thought of Max. Where was he? Was he living or dead? Two years had gone away since she bade him good-by, and he left his German home behind him to seek his fortune in the wide New World.

Two years! and not a word from him in all that time. He might be dead!

He had promised to send for her when the new home he had talked of so hopefully was ready for her. When the old home was lost to her, she had nowhere to go, and she had followed her lover to the New World, hoping to find him there. But the New World was so wide that she could find no trace of him in it. He must be dead.

The air blew in, warm and stifling, across the window-sill, where one poor, starved little pansy tried to blossom. Oh, the mountains! The very thought of them was refreshing to her, in this oven of a room. If she could only get a breath of pure, sweet air again, she thought it would help her to do her work more cheerfully. She was getting tired out in this stagnant place. But, after all, she longed most for Max.

She dropped her work at last, when it got so dark she could no longer see to set her stitches even, and leaned her head wearily on the window-sill, thinking. And before she had been thinking long, she was crying.

Suddenly the sound of a violin came floating in on the dusty air. There was something in the sound that seemed like the remembered tones of a familiar voice. As she listened, she recognized a piece that Max used to play.

"I have never heard it since Max played it," she said softly, to herself. "If it were only Max playing it now!"

And then she forgot all about listening in thoughts of Max.

All at once she started up with a low cry, and leaned out of the window in the dusk. The musician was playing the air Max had composed for her! She knew it before he had finished the strain. There was nothing else in all the world like it. None had ever learned it but her. He had called it her song, and kept it for herself. Her face was pale with eager emotion as she listened. The music seemed talking to her, and telling her of longing, and sorrow, and love that could never die.

When the music ended, she began to sing. She sung one little verse that she made to fit her lover's tune. It was a simple thing, but she had put her heart into it, and it was full of passionate earnestness. She sung it with her soul upon her lips. The hot and dusty air seemed to stand still to listen to it. A man who was passing in the street below, stopped, and the singer's song fixed itself in his heart by its pathetic sweetness, and haunted him for days until he gave it to the world.

Another man leaned out of a window opposite and listened, with his face full of strong emotions. There was but one beside himself in all the world that knew the song he had made for his sweetheart. It must be her whom he was listening to. That was her voice! He should know it anywhere! At last he had found the one he had been looking for so long.

Gretchen! he cried, forgetful of the passer-by below. "Oh, my Gretchen, is it thou?"

And a voice came back, full of wild gladness.

"Oh, Max, Max, we have found each other!"

And thus they met, and their little song had brought them together.

The man who heard it, listening from the street, wrote it down and sang it, and it is not Max and Gretchen's song now, but all the world's.

Heroes of History.

Edward, the Black Prince, and the Battle of Cressy.

BY LAUNCE POYNTEZ.

As Bayard represents the last days of the Age of Chivalry, of which he was the end, so Edward, the Black Prince, represents its prime and heyday. The middle of the fourteenth century was the time when chivalry was most flourishing, when war was surrounded with a romance and splendor it has never since attained, and Edward the Third of England, his son, the Black Prince, and the French knight, Bertrand du Guesclin, are the three central figures in every history of the time. It may not prove without interest to us prosaic traders to hear of those splendid times.

Edward, the Black Prince, was so called because he always wore black armor with gold lines, instead of bright steel. He was the eldest son of Edward III. of England, who was the best, in fact, the only great general of his time. In his days war had become a mere matter of single duels, in which the biggest and strongest men were most successful. The lords and barons all fought on horseback, covered with armor, and lived in strong castles from whence they issued with their men-at-arms to plunder each other's lands. The poor working people, who had no horses and armor, were quite helpless to resist. The nobles made them work and pay for their masters' luxuries. All over Europe the white people were as low down as our slaves and the Russian serfs were, a few years ago. They were bought and sold with the land, like cattle.

The only people, not noble, who had any liberty, were the workmen in the towns of the Continent and the small farmers of England. The French, Dutch and German artisans protected themselves by fortifications. A knight on horseback was not much use in a narrow street. Any old woman could throw down a big stone on his head from a top window, and kill him. As a consequence of this, the townspeople were forced to be civil to the townspeople. The different trades, butchers, bakers, smiths, carpenters, and so on, all had guilds or corporations—trades unions we call them now—and knew that their only chance of safety was to stick together. Moreover, they had money, and the kings and lords often wanted it. Consequently, the townspeople secured privileges, in return for loans, that the poor peasants never enjoyed. In England the case was different, for a very simple reason. The people of England, of all Europe, were the only ones that knew how to use the longbow. When the English barons tried on the same tricks as the French and Germans, the English peasants took to the woods, like Robin Hood, and defied the heavy knights to follow them. It was like our riflemen in the Revolution, like the Indians defeating Braddock. In the woods one archer was worth two knights. The consequence was, that kings and barons were more civil in England to the common people. The kings early perceived that it was best to make friends with these archers. Edward III. was the first English king who saw their full value, and made the strength of his army to consist in archers, while the mail-clad barons were less than a fifth of the whole.

The result was soon seen, in the war with France. Edward landed with an army of some thirty thousand men, of whom twenty-five thousand were stout English archers. The French raised armies of a hundred thousand knights and men-at-arms, and imagined that they had nothing to do but to ride over the English. The proud barons were used to despise any one who fought on foot. They soon found their mistake. From the time Edward landed, till the battle of Cressy, he did nothing but drive the different parties that opposed his advance. At Caen, the archers drove in a sally of the garrison, in such haste and with such a panic that the battle was known as "Caen Races," and the English took the town with hardly any loss. The old women did not try on any hot water and big stone business with the light archers. Every man carried an ax, and they used to smash open doors, and go through houses like lightning, if attacked from the windows. Moreover, they could put an arrow through any one who looked out, long before he could hurt them.

At last, this little English army, after doing as it pleased to the north of France, was met at Cressy by the French king, Philip VI., in the summer of 1346, over five hundred years ago. It was in this battle that the Black Prince, then a boy of only sixteen, won his spurs, and first distinguished himself. To explain the phrase, "won his spurs," it must be noted that, according to the rules of chivalry, no one but a knight could wear gold spurs, which were the badge of knighthood. No matter how high in rank, every noble had to become a knight, first, a page, second a squire, before he could be made a knight, and then only for brave deeds in the field. Chivalry was in reality a sacred society, peculiar to itself. The poorest knight was the social equal of a king, the greatest king received adieu luster from being made a knight. Young Edward was not yet a knight, and longed to be one. Cressy was to make him one, and being in many respects a very remarkable battle, deserves a special notice.

The course of the English army on its march through France was that of a cavalry raid, such as was common during our late war. It was in a semi-circle, as may be seen by looking at the map of France. Edward landed at Cherbourg, and marched toward Paris, taking in his way the towns of Caen and Argentan. Then, hearing that immense forces were coming against him, he turned easterly and marched to Beauvais, thence north to Amiens, and so to the coast. He was too cautious to hazard a battle, with his small force, in the center of France, and wanted to be near his ships, in case of a defeat. It shows how history repeats itself, that, seventy years later, his bold descendant, Henry V., took almost the same track, in a smaller circle, and was brought to bay within a few miles of the same place, at Agincourt. Cressy and Agincourt were also battles of almost exactly the same character, and both won by the English archers.

At Cressy, Edward was chased so hard by the immense French army that he determined to make a stand. If he must be driven into the sea, it should not be without a fight. He divided his little army into three "battles," as they were called. One of these held the right, under the Lord Marshal, the other, on the left, was nominally commanded by the Boy Prince, but really by the best of all Edward's generals, Sir John Chandos. The king held the third, in reserve, on a hill in rear of the center, by a windmill. There he sat on horseback, grimly watching the fight, where his eldest boy was to meet the enemy for the first time.

The French came hurrying up from Beauvais in great haste, to catch the English, who

were fleeing to their ships, as they thought. The first troops came on the field about one o'clock, and at once furiously attacked the English. These troops were knights and men-at-arms. The French king was still ten miles off, with his hundred thousand men strung along the road, for at least fifteen miles. The first batch of horsemen came galloping up, and were received by the English archers with such a flight of arrows, that they rolled in heaps on the ground. This reception surprised the haughty nobles who remained alive. They had not been at Caen. They imagined that their armor would protect them, and lo, the sturdy English archers sent arrows a yard long, through and through them! They broke and fled in confusion after one or two charges. Behind them, hurrying up on foot, was a column of fifteen thousand Genoese cross-bowmen, fellows in heavy body armor, carrying big cross-bows. These cross-bows were so strong, that no man could bend them alone. They had to be wound up with a winch, and it took a man a good minute to get ready to shoot. When a cross-bow did shoot, it sent a shaft twice as far as an arrow, but the English archers could shoot six arrows in the same time that a Genoese shot one.

Behind the Genoese came thousands of haughty knights and barons. They had heard of the shooting of the common English churls, and did not propose to trust their noble blood to be split by such low fellows. They had hired the Genoese to do all that sort of thing, and drove them along on the hot, dusty road, staggering under the long march, while the barons cursed them for lazy Italian swine. It took a long time for these Genoese to get up, and a curious thing happened during the interval. The heavens grew dark, and a black shadow crept over the sun. An eclipse was taking place. At the same time a furious thunder storm came up and drenched the French to the skin, while only a few drops touched the edge of the English army. The result was that the Genoese halted and formed in the rain, and when they came to advance, all their bow-strings were wet and stretched, so as to shoot weak.

At last the storm cleared away, the bulk of the French army had arrived, and the Genoese advanced on the English. The English awaited them in silence. The Genoese came up slowly, and halted close to the English. Then they gave a loud shout, went forward a few steps, and halted. They gave a second shout, and ran a few more steps. Then the English began to shoot, the Genoese replied, and the French cavalry rushed in, and the battle became hot. Twenty minutes after, the Genoese, unable to endure those terrible flights of arrows, shot down while they were loading, gave way and fled.

Then came another strange scene. My lords and barons in the rear, seeing the Genoese, became enraged. "What! These false churls that we pay to fight other churls, get in our way and won't fight! Charge them, gentlemen!"

And so they did charge their own men and killed them by scores, which satisfied my lord's spleen, but did not win the battle. Now came wave after wave of heavy men-at-arms against the little corps of the Black Prince, charging so fiercely, that some got among the archers. The arrows flew in white streaks and struck down man and horse, but as fast as one wave recoiled, a second took its place. The storm of arrows was giving way, and it seemed as if the French must annihilate this army by sheer weight. The other was hard pressed, but not so heavily as the Prince's wing. In this emergency, Sir John Chandos dispatched a knight in great haste to King Edward at the mill, craving help, that the Prince was sorely bested.

"Is my son killed?" asked the king, quietly.

"No, sire."

"Is he wounded or unhorsed?"

"No, sire, he fights bravely, hand to hand."

"Go back," said Edward, grimly. "Tell my son that while he is unhorsed, I shall not help him. Please God, he shall win his spurs in this battle."

The knight returned with the message, and, strange to say, the English were so much encouraged that they gave a loud shout, charged the French, and drove them off, while the archers leaped out with their axes and began to dispatch the fallen knights, who could not rise for their heavy armor.

From that moment the battle was decided. Edward, who would send no men from the reserve, without absolute necessity, sent the Prince two wagon loads of arrows, and every successive charge of the French was repulsed with such slaughter that 30,000 dead bodies lay on the field, and the French army, completely demoralized, dispersed in their confusion.

That night the King of France, with only ten knights, fled in despair to a neighboring convent. His whole army had vanished.

Then, the battle over and the field still, Edward, the king, unbent from the grim silence of the general, who knew that his army depended on his judgment for safety. Coming to his son, he embraced and blessed the gallant boy, and knighted him on the field. The Black Prince, who had slain the King of Bohemia, one of Philip's tributaries, adopted the fallen king's arms and motto for his own, and to this day the arms of the Prince of Wales remain the same, three ostrich plumes for a crest, with the motto "Ich dien," "I serve."

From thenceforth he was the best of Edward's leaders, and, ten years later, won the battle of Poitiers from Philip's successor, John, with 15,000 men against the French king's 70,000, taking him prisoner, and destroying his whole army. His treatment of his royal prisoner was marked by the most respectful courtesy. Entering London, John was mounted on a splendid war-horse, while the Prince rode a little pony. At table, the Prince always waited on his prisoner as a distinguished guest, and his whole conduct has descended to the present day as a model of knightly courtesy.

One fact about Cressy remains to be noticed. There is not a shadow of foundation for the common belief that cannon were used there. The only contemporary account is that of Froissart, who obtained his information by questioning numerous lords and squires, who fought on both sides of Cressy.

He says no word about cannon. In 1415, seventy years later, an old MS. enumerating the stores in Edward's camp, speaks of "bows, arrows, arbalists, quarrels, and other artillery." This word "artillery" was frequently used before, for weapons of all sorts, especially missiles. On a misunderstanding of this word, the mistake arose first, in the eighteenth century, and Hume and other historians have accepted it blindly till the present century, when the notion has been finally and completely refuted by examination of the earliest authorities. The only reason that it remains now, is that a notion, however erroneous, once published in book form, is accepted as gospel truth by that large majority who are too lazy to investigate, and take things for granted.



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